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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Other matters

Declarations, reservations, objections and notifications of withdrawal of reservations relating to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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I. Introduction

1. The present document contains the declarations, reservations, objections and notifications of withdrawal of reservations made by States parties with respect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women reproduced in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2001*.[1] Declarations, reservations, objections and notifications of withdrawal of reservations have also been taken from the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention (A/56/328). Declarations, reservations, objections and notifications of withdrawal of reservations made from 1 August 2001 to 1 July 2002 have been taken from the Multilateral Treaties web site.

II. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

A. General information

2. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979. It entered into force on 3 September 1981, in accordance with the provisions of its article 27. The status of States parties with respect to the Convention as at 1 July 2002 is shown below.

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.V.4.

Status of States parties with respect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as at 1 July 2002

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Afghanistan	14 August 1980	
Albania		11 May 1994[a]
Algeria		22 May 1996[a,b]
Andorra		15 January 1997[a]
Angola		17 September 1986[a]
Antigua and Barbuda		1 August 1989[a]
Argentina	17 July 1980	15 July 1985[b]
Armenia		13 September 1993[a]
Australia	17 July 1980	28 July 1983[b]
Austria	17 July 1980	31 March 1982[b]
Azerbaijan		10 July 1995[a]
Bahamas		6 October 1993[a,b]
Bahrain		18 June 2002[a]
Bangladesh		6 November 1984[a,b]
Barbados	24 July 1980	16 October 1980
Belarus	17 July 1980	4 February 1981[c]
Belgium	17 July 1980	10 July 1985[b]
Belize	7 March 1990	16 May 1990
Benin	11 November 1981	12 March 1992
Bhutan	17 July 1980	31 August 1981
Bolivia	30 May 1980	8 June 1990
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1 September 1993[d]
Botswana		13 August 1996[a]
Brazil	31 March 1981[b]	1 February 1984[b,c]
Bulgaria	17 July 1980	8 February 1982[c]
Burkina Faso		14 October 1987[a]

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Burundi	17 July 1980	8 January 1992
Cambodia	17 October 1980	15 October 1992[a]
Cameroon	6 June 1983	23 August 1994[a]
Canada	17 July 1980	10 December 1981[c]
Cape Verde		5 December 1980[a]
Central African Republic		21 June 1991[a]
Chad		9 June 1995[a]
Chile	17 July 1980	7 December 1989[b]
China	17 July 1980[b]	4 November 1980[b]
Colombia	17 July 1980	19 January 1982
Comoros		31 October 1994[a]
Congo	29 July 1980	26 July 1982
Costa Rica	17 July 1980	4 April 1986
Côte d'Ivoire	17 July 1980	18 December 1995[a]
Croatia		9 September 1992[d]
Cuba	6 March 1980	17 July 1980[b]
Cyprus		23 July 1985[a,b]
Czech Republic[e]		22 February 1993[c,d]
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		27 February 2001[a]
Democratic Republic of the Congo	17 July 1980	17 October 1986
Denmark	17 July 1980	21 April 1983
Djibouti		2 December 1998[a]
Dominica	15 September 1980	15 September 1980
Dominican Republic	17 July 1980	2 September 1982
Ecuador	17 July 1980	9 November 1981
Egypt	16 July 1980[b]	18 September 1981[b]
El Salvador	14 November 1980[b]	19 August 1981[b]

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Equatorial Guinea		23 October 1984[a]
Eritrea		5 September 1995[a]
Estonia		21 October 1991[a]
Ethiopia	8 July 1980	10 September 1981[b]
Fiji		28 August 1995[a,b]
Finland	17 July 1980	4 September 1986
France	17 July 1980[b]	14 December 1983[b,c]
Gabon	17 July 1980	21 January 1983
Gambia	29 July 1980	16 April 1993
Georgia		26 October 1994[a]
Germany[f]	17 July 1980	10 July 1985[b]
Ghana	17 July 1980	2 January 1986
Greece	2 March 1982	7 June 1983
Grenada	17 July 1980	30 August 1990
Guatemala	8 June 1981	12 August 1982
Guinea	17 July 1980	9 August 1982
Guinea-Bissau	17 July 1980	23 August 1985
Guyana	17 July 1980	17 July 1980
Haiti	17 July 1980	20 July 1981
Honduras	11 June 1980	3 March 1983
Hungary	6 June 1980	22 December 1980[c]
Iceland	24 July 1980	18 June 1985
India	30 July 1980[b]	9 July 1993[b]
Indonesia	29 July 1980	13 September 1984[b]
Iraq		13 August 1986[a]
Ireland		23 December 1985[a,b,c]
Israel	17 July 1980	3 October 1991[b]
Italy	17 July 1980[b]	10 June 1985

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Jamaica	17 July 1980	19 October 1984[b,c]
Japan	17 July 1980	25 June 1985
Jordan	3 December 1980[b]	1 July 1992[b]
Kazakhstan		26 August 1998[a]
Kenya		9 March 1984[a]
Kuwait		2 September 1994[a,b]
Kyrgyzstan		10 February 1997[a]
Lao People's Democratic Republic	17 July 1980	14 August 1981
Latvia		14 April 1992[a]
Lebanon		16 April 1997[a]
Lesotho	17 July 1980	22 August 1995[a,b]
Liberia		17 July 1984[a]
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		16 May 1989[a,b]
Liechtenstein		22 December 1995[a]
Lithuania		18 January 1994[a]
Luxembourg	17 July 1980	2 February 1989[b]
Madagascar	17 July 1980	17 March 1989
Malawi		12 March 1987[a,c]
Malaysia		5 July 1995[a,b]
Maldives		1 July 1993[a,b]
Mali	5 February 1985	10 September 1985
Malta		8 March 1991[a,b]
Mauritania		10 May 2001[a]
Mauritius		9 July 1984[a,b]
Mexico	17 July 1980[b]	23 March 1981
Mongolia	17 July 1980	20 July 1981[c]
Morocco		21 June 1993[a,b]

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Mozambique		16 April 1997[a]
Myanmar		22 July 1997[a]
Namibia		23 November 1992[a]
Nepal	5 February1991	22 April 1991
Netherlands	17 July 1980	23 July 1991
New Zealand	17 July 1980	10 January 1985[b,c]
Nicaragua	17 July 1980	27 October 1981
Niger		8 October 1999[a]
Nigeria	23 April 1984	13 June 1985
Norway	17 July 1980	21 May 1981
Pakistan		12 March 1996[a,b]
Panama	26 June 1980	29 October 1981
Papua New Guinea		12 January 1995[a]
Paraguay		6 April 1987[a]
Peru	23 July 1981	13 September 1982
Philippines	15 July 1980	5 August 1981
Poland	29 May 1980	30 July 1980[b]
Portugal	24 April 1980	30 July 1980
Republic of Korea	25 May 1983[b]	27 December 1984[b,c]
Republic of Moldova		1 July 1994[a]
Romania	4 September 1980[b]	7 January 1982[b]
Russian Federation	17 July 1980	23 January 1981[c]
Rwanda	1 May 1980	2 March 1981
Saint Kitts and Nevis		25 April 1985[a]
Saint Lucia		8 October 1982[a]
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		4 August 1981[a]
Samoa		25 September 1992[a]

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Sao Tome and Principe	31 October 1995	
Saudi Arabia	7 September 2000	7 September 2000
Senegal	29 July 1980	5 February 1985
Seychelles		5 May 1992[a]
Sierra Leone	21 September 1988	11 November 1988
Singapore		5 October 1995[a,b]
Slovakia[c]		28 May 1993[d]
Slovenia		6 July 1992[d]
Solomon Islands		6 May 2002[a]
South Africa	29 January 1993	15 December 1995[a]
Spain	17 July 1980	5 January 1984[b]
Sri Lanka	17 July 1980	5 October 1981
Suriname		1 March 1993[a]
Sweden	7 March 1980	2 July 1980
Switzerland	23 January 1987	27 March 1997[a]
Tajikistan		26 October 1993[a]
Thailand		9 August 1985[a,b,c]
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		18 January 1994[d]
Togo		26 September 1983[a]
Trinidad and Tobago	27 June 1985[b]	12 January 1990[b]
Tunisia	24 July 1980	20 September 1985[b]
Turkey		20 December 1985[a,b]
Turkmenistan		1 May 1997[a]
Tuvalu		6 October 1999[a]
Uganda	30 July 1980	22 July 1985
Ukraine	17 July 1980	12 March 1981[c]
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	22 July 1981	7 April 1986[b]

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
United Republic of Tanzania	17 July 1980	20 August 1985
United States of America	17 July 1980	
Uruguay	30 March 1981	9 October 1981
Uzbekistan		19 July 1995[a]
Vanuatu		8 September 1995[a]
Venezuela	17 July 1980	2 May 1983[b]
Viet Nam	29 July 1980	17 February 1982[b]
Yemen[g]		30 May 1984[a,b]
Yugoslavia	17 July 1980	26 February 1982
Zambia	17 July 1980	21 June 1985
Zimbabwe		13 May 1991[a]

[a] Accession.
[b] Declarations or reservations.
[c] Reservation subsequently withdrawn.
[d] Succession.
[e] Before becoming a separate State on 1 January 1993, the Czech Republic and Slovakia formed part of Czechoslovakia, which had ratified the Convention on 16 February 1982. The Convention entered into force on 18 March 1982.
[f] With effect from 3 October 1990, the German Democratic Republic (which ratified the Convention on 9 July 1980) and the Federal Republic of Germany (which ratified the Convention on 10 July 1985) united to form one sovereign State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation of "Germany".
[g] On 22 May 1990, Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation of "Yemen".

B. Texts of declarations and reservations

Algeria

[Original: French]
[22 May 1996]

Reservations

Article 2

The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria declares that it is prepared to apply the provisions of this article on condition that they do not conflict with the provisions of the Algerian Family Code.

Article 9, paragraph 2

The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria wishes to express its reservations concerning the provisions of article 9, paragraph 2, which are incompatible with the provisions of the Algerian Nationality Code and the Algerian Family Code.

The Algerian Nationality Code allows a child to take the nationality of the mother only when:

- The father is either unknown or stateless;
- The child is born in Algeria to an Algerian mother and a foreign father who was born in Algeria.

Moreover, a child born in Algeria to an Algerian mother and a foreign father who was not born on Algerian territory may, under article 26 of the Algerian Nationality Code, acquire the nationality of the mother providing the Ministry of Justice does not object.

Article 41 of the Algerian Family Code states that a child is affiliated to its father through legal marriage.

Article 43 of that Code states that "the child is affiliated to its father if it is born in the 10 months following the date of separation or death".

Article 15, paragraph 4

The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria declares that the provisions of article 15, paragraph 4, concerning the right of women to choose their residence and domicile should not be interpreted in such a manner as to contradict the provisions of chapter 4 (art. 37) of the Algerian Family Code.

Article 16

The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria declares that the provisions of article 16 concerning equal rights for men and women in all matters relating to marriage, both during marriage and at its dissolution, should not contradict the provisions of the Algerian Family Code.

Article 29

The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria does not consider itself bound by article 29, paragraph 1, which states that any dispute between two or more States parties concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration or to the International Court of Justice.

The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria holds that no such dispute can be submitted to arbitration or to the International Court of Justice except with the consent of all the parties to the dispute.

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[15 July 1985]

Reservation

The Government of Argentina declares that it does not consider itself bound by article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Australia

[Original: English]
[28 July 1983]

Declaration

Australia has a federal constitutional system in which legislative, executive and judicial powers are

shared or distributed between the Commonwealth and the Constituent States. The implementation of the Treaty throughout Australia will be effected by the Commonwealth State and Territory Authorities having regard to their respective constitutional powers and arrangements concerning their exercise.

Reservations

The Government of Australia states that maternity leave with pay is provided in respect of most women employed by the Commonwealth Government and the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria. Unpaid maternity leave is provided in respect of all other women employed in the State of New South Wales and elsewhere to women employed under Federal and some State industrial awards. Social security benefits subject to income tests are available to women who are sole parents.

The Government of Australia advises that it is not at present in a position to take the measures required by article 11, paragraph 2 (b), to introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits throughout Australia.

Austria

[Original: English]
[31 March 1982]

Reservation

Austria reserves its right to apply the provision of article 11 as far as night work of women and special protection of working women is concerned, within the limits established by national legislation.

Bahamas

[Original: English]
[6 October 1993]

Reservation

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 2 (a), article 9, paragraph 2, article 16, paragraph 1 (h) [and] article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Bahrain

[Original: Arabic]
[18 June 2002]

Reservation

The Kingdom of Bahrain makes reservations with respect to the following provisions of the Convention:

Article 2, in order to ensure its implementation within the bounds of the provisions of the Islamic Shariah;

Article 9, paragraph 2;

Article 15, paragraph 4;

Article 16, insofar as it is incompatible with the provisions of the Islamic Shariah;

Article 29, paragraph 1.

The Convention will enter into force for Bahrain on 18 July 2002 in accordance with its article 27 (2).

Bangladesh

[Original: English]
[6 November 1984]

Reservation

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh does not consider as binding upon itself the provisions of articles 2 and 16, paragraph 1 (c), as they conflict with Shariah law based on Holy Koran and Sunna.

Belgium

[Original: French]
[3 July 1985]

Reservations

Article 15, paragraphs 2 and 3

The application of article 15, paragraphs 2 and 3, shall not affect the validity of the interim provisions enacted for couples married before the entry into force of the Act of 14 July 1976 concerning the reciprocal rights and duties of husbands and wives and their marriage contracts, in cases where, in accordance with

the option available to them under the Act, they have declared they are maintaining in toto their prior marriage contracts.

Brazil

[Original: English]
[1 February 1984]

Reservation

Brazil does not consider itself bound by article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[17 July 1980]

Declarations

The Government of Chile has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, mindful of the important step which this document represents, not only in terms of the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, but also in terms of their full and permanent integration into society in conditions of equality.

The Government is obliged to state, however, that some of the provisions of the Convention are not entirely compatible with current Chilean legislation.

At the same time, it reports the establishment of a Commission for the Study and Reform of the Civil Code, which now has before it various proposals to amend, inter alia, those provisions which are not fully consistent with the terms of the Convention.

China

[Original: Chinese]
[4 November 1980]

Declaration

The People's Republic of China does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[17 July 1980]

Reservation

The Government of the Republic of Cuba makes a specific reservation concerning the provisions of article 29 of the Convention inasmuch as it holds that any disputes that may arise between States parties should be resolved by means of direct negotiations through the diplomatic channel.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[27 February 2001]

Reservation

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not consider itself bound by the provisions of paragraph (f) of article 2, paragraph 2 of article 9 and paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention.

Egypt

[Original: Arabic]
[18 September 1981]

Reservations

Article 9

Reservation to the text of article 9, paragraph 2, concerning the granting to women of equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children, without prejudice to the acquisition by a child born of a marriage of the nationality of his father. This is in order to prevent a child's acquisition of two nationalities, since this may be prejudicial to his future. It is clear that the child's acquisition of his father's nationality is the procedure most suitable for the child and that this does not infringe upon the principle of equality between men and women, since it is customary for a woman to agree, upon marrying an alien, that her children shall be of the father's nationality.

Article 16

Reservation to the text of article 16 concerning the equality of men and women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations during the marriage and upon its dissolution, without prejudice to the Islamic Shariah provisions whereby women are accorded rights equivalent to those of their spouses so as to ensure a just balance between them. This is out of respect for the sacrosanct nature of the firm religious beliefs which govern marital relations in Egypt and which may not be called in question and in view of the fact that one of the most important bases of these relations is an equivalency of rights and duties so as to ensure complementarity which guarantees true equality between the spouses, not a quasi-equality that renders the marriage a burden on the wife. The provisions of the Shariah lay down that the husband shall pay bridal money to the wife and maintain her fully and shall also make a payment to her upon divorce, whereas the wife retains full rights over her property and is not obliged to spend anything on her keep. The Shariah therefore restricts the wife's rights to divorce by making it contingent on a judge's ruling, whereas no such restriction is laid down in the case of the husband.

Article 29

The Egyptian delegation maintains the reservation contained in article 29, paragraph 2, concerning the right of a State signatory to the Convention to declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of that article concerning the submission to an arbitral body of any dispute which may arise between States concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention. This is in order to avoid being bound by the system of arbitration in this field.

General reservation to article 2

The Arab Republic of Egypt is willing to comply with the content of this article, provided that such compliance does not run counter to the Islamic Shariah.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[19 August 1981]

Reservation

The Government of El Salvador made a reservation with regard to the application of the provisions of article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Ethiopia

[Original: English]
[10 September 1981]

Reservation

Socialist Ethiopia does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention.

France

[Original: French]
[14 December 1983]

Declarations

The Government of the French Republic declares that article 9 of the Convention must not be interpreted as precluding the application of the second paragraph of article 96 of the code of French nationality.

[All other declarations and reservations were confirmed in substance upon ratification.]

The Government of the French Republic declares that the preamble to the Convention — in particular the eleventh preambular paragraph — contains debatable elements which are definitely out of place in this text.

The Government of the French Republic declares that the term "family education" in article 5 (b) of the Convention must be interpreted as meaning public education concerning the family and that, in any event, article 5 will be applied subject to respect for article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 8 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The Government of the French Republic declares that no provision of the Convention must be interpreted as prevailing over provisions of French legislation which are more favourable to women than to men.

Reservations

Articles 5 (b) and 16, paragraph 1 (d)

1. The Government of the French Republic declares that article 5 (b) and article 16, paragraph 1 (d), must not be interpreted as implying joint exercise of parental authority in situations in which French legislation allows of such exercise by only one parent.

2. The Government of the French Republic declares that article 16, paragraph 1 (d), of the Convention must not preclude the application of article 383 of the Civil Code.

Article 14

1. The Government of the French Republic declares that article 14, paragraph 2 (c), should be interpreted as guaranteeing that women who fulfil the conditions relating to family or employment required by French legislation for personal participation shall acquire their own rights within the framework of social security.

2. The Government of the French Republic declares that article 14, paragraph 2 (h), of the Convention should not be interpreted as implying the actual provision, free of charge, of the services mentioned in that paragraph.

Article 16, paragraph 1 (g)

The Government of the French Republic enters a reservation concerning the right to choose a family name mentioned in article 16, paragraph 1 (g), of the Convention.

Article 29

The Government of the French Republic declares, in pursuance of article 29, paragraph 2, of the Convention, that it will not be bound by the provisions of article 29, paragraph 1.

Germany

[Original: English]
[10 July 1985]

Declaration

The right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the International Covenants of 19 December 1966, applies to all peoples and not only to those living under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation. All peoples thus have the inalienable right freely to determine their political status and freely to pursue their economic, social and cultural development. The Federal Republic of Germany would be unable to recognize as legally valid an interpretation of the right to self-determination which contradicts the unequivocal wording of the Charter of the United Nations and of the two International Covenants of 19 December 1966 on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It will interpret the eleventh paragraph of the preamble accordingly.

India

[Original: English]
[9 July 1993]

Declarations

With regard to articles 5 (a) and 16, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government of the Republic of India declares that it shall abide by and ensure these provisions in conformity with its policy of non-interference in the personal affairs of any community without its initiative and consent.

With regard to article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government of the Republic of India declares that, though in principle it fully supports the principle of compulsory registration of marriages, it is not practical in a vast country like India with its variety of customs, religions and level of literacy.

Reservation

With regard to article 29 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against

Women, the Government of the Republic of India declares that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this article.

Indonesia

[Original: English]
[13 September 1984]

Reservation

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia does not consider itself bound by the provision of article 29, paragraph 1, of this Convention and takes the position that any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention may only be submitted to arbitration or to the International Court of Justice with the agreement of all the parties to the dispute.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[13 August 1986]

Reservations

1. Approval of and accession to this Convention shall not mean that the Republic of Iraq is bound by the provisions of article 2, subparagraphs (f) and (g), of article 9, paragraphs 1 and 2, or of article 16 of the Convention. The reservations to this last-mentioned article shall be without prejudice to the provisions of the Islamic Shariah according women rights equivalent to the rights of their spouses so as to ensure a just balance between them. Iraq also enters a reservation to article 29, paragraph 1, of this Convention with regard to the principle of international arbitration in connection with the interpretation or application of this Convention.

2. This approval in no way implies recognition of or entry into any relations with Israel.

Ireland

[Original: English]
[23 December 1985]

Reservations

Article 13, subparagraphs (b) and (c)

The question of supplementing the guarantee of equality contained in the Irish Constitution with special legislation governing access to financial credit and other services and recreational activities, where these are provided by private persons, organizations or enterprises, is under consideration. For the time being Ireland reserves the right to regard its existing law and measures in this area as appropriate for the attainment in Ireland of the objectives of the Convention.

Article 16, paragraph 1 (d) and (f)

Ireland is of the view that the attainment in Ireland of the objectives of the Convention does not necessitate the extension to men of rights identical to those accorded by law to women in respect of the guardianship, adoption and custody of children born out of wedlock and reserves the right to implement the Convention subject to that understanding.

Articles 11, paragraph 1, and 13 (a)

Ireland reserves the right to regard the Anti-Discrimination (Pay) Act, 1974 and the Employment Equality Act 1977 and other measures taken in implementation of the European Economic Community standards concerning employment opportunities and pay as sufficient implementation of article 11, paragraph 1 (b), (c) and (d).

Ireland reserves the right for the time being to maintain provisions of Irish legislation in the area of social security which are more favourable to women than men.

Israel

[Original: English]
[3 October 1991]

Reservations

The State of Israel hereby expresses its reservation with regard to article 7 (b) of the Convention concerning the appointment of women to serve as judges of religious courts where this is prohibited by the laws of any of the religious communities in Israel. Otherwise, the said article is fully implemented in Israel, in view of the fact that women take a prominent part in all aspects of public life.

The State of Israel hereby expresses its reservation with regard to article 16 of the Convention, insofar as the laws of personal status binding on the several religious communities in Israel do not conform with the provisions of that article.

Declaration

In accordance with paragraph 2 of article 29 of the Convention, the State of Israel hereby declares that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of that article.

Italy

[Original: English]
[17 July 1980]

Reservation

Italy reserves the right to exercise, when depositing the instrument of ratification, the option provided for in article 19 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 23 May 1969.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[19 October 1984]

Reservation

The Government of Jamaica declares that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[1 July 1992]

Reservations

Jordan does not consider itself bound by the following provisions:

(a) Article 9, paragraph 2;

(b) Article 15, paragraph 4 (a woman's residence and domicile are with her husband);

(c) Article 16, paragraph 1 (c), relating to the rights arising upon the dissolution of a marriage in connection with maintenance and compensation;

(d) Article 16, paragraph 1 (d) and (g).

Kuwait

[Original: Arabic]
[2 September 1994]

Reservations

Article 7 (a)

The Government of Kuwait enters a reservation regarding article 7 (a), inasmuch as the provision contained in that paragraph conflicts with the Kuwaiti Electoral Act, under which the right to be eligible for election and to vote is restricted to males.

Article 9, paragraph 2

The Government of Kuwait reserves its right not to implement the provision contained in article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, inasmuch as it runs counter to the Kuwaiti Nationality Act, which stipulates that a child's nationality shall be determined by that of his father.

Article 16, paragraph 1 (f)

The Government of the State of Kuwait declares that it does not consider itself bound by the provision contained in article 16, paragraph 1 (f), inasmuch as it conflicts with the provisions of the Islamic Shariah, Islam being the official religion of the State.

Article 29, paragraph 1

The Government of Kuwait declares that it is not bound by the provision contained in article 29, paragraph 1.

Lebanon

[Original: French]
[21 April 1997]

Reservations

The Government of the Lebanese Republic enters reservations regarding article 9, paragraph 2, and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g) (regarding the right to choose a family name).

In accordance with paragraph 2 of article 29, the Government of the Lebanese Republic declares that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of that article.

Lesotho

[Original: English]
[22 August 1995]

Reservations

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho declares that it does not consider itself bound by article 2 to the extent that it conflicts with Lesotho's constitutional stipulations relative to succession to the throne of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the law relating to succession to chieftainship. The ratification by the Government of Lesotho is subject to the understanding that none of its obligations under the Convention, especially in article 2 (e), shall be treated as extending to the affairs of religious denominations.

Furthermore, the Government of Lesotho declares that it shall not take any legislative measures under the Convention where those measures would be incompatible with the Constitution of Lesotho.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic]
[5 July 1995]

Reservations

1. Article 2 of the Convention shall be implemented with due regard for the peremptory norms of the Islamic Shariah relating to determination of the inheritance portions of the estate of a deceased person, whether female or male.

2. The implementation of article 16, paragraph 1 (c) and (d), of the Convention shall be without prejudice to any of the rights guaranteed to women by the Islamic Shariah.

Liechtenstein

[Original: English]
[22 December 1995]

Reservation

In the light of the definition given in article 1 of the Convention, the Principality of Liechtenstein reserves the right to apply, with respect to all the obligations of the Convention, article 3 of the Liechtenstein Constitution.

Luxembourg

[Original: French]
[2 February 1989]

Reservations

(a) The application of article 7 shall not affect the validity of the article of our Constitution concerning the hereditary transmission of the crown of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, in accordance with the family compact of the House of Nassau of 30 June 1783, maintained by article 71 of the Treaty of Vienna of 9 June 1815 and expressly maintained by article 1 of the Treaty of London of 11 May 1867.

(b) The application of paragraph 1 (g) of article 16 of the Convention shall not affect the right to choose the family name of children.

Malaysia

[Original: English]
[5 July 1995]

Reservations

The Government of Malaysia declares that Malaysia's accession is subject to the understanding that the provisions of the Convention do not conflict with the provisions of the Islamic Shariah law and the Federal Constitution of Malaysia. With regard thereto, further, the Government of Malaysia does not consider itself bound by the provisions of articles 5 (a), 7 (b), 9 (2) and 16 (a), (c), (f) and (g) of the aforesaid Convention.

In relation to article 11, Malaysia interprets the provisions of this article as a reference to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of equality between men and women only.

Maldives

[Original: English]
[23 June 1999]

Reservations

The Government of the Republic of Maldives expresses its reservations to article 7 (a) of the Convention, to the extent that the provision contained in the said paragraph conflicts with the provision of article 34 of the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives.

The Government of the Republic of Maldives reserves its right to apply article 16 of the Convention concerning the equality of men and women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations without prejudice to the provisions of the Islamic Shariah, which govern all marital and family relations of the 100 per cent Muslim population of the Maldives.

Malta

[Original: English]
[8 March 1991]

Reservations

Article 11

The Government of Malta interprets paragraph 1 of article 11, in the light of the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 4, as not precluding prohibitions, restrictions or conditions on the employment of women in certain areas, or the work done by them, where this is considered necessary or desirable to protect the health and safety of women or the human foetus, including such prohibitions, restrictions or conditions imposed in consequence of other international obligations of Malta.

Article 13

(i) The Government of Malta reserves the right, notwithstanding anything in the Convention, to continue to apply its tax legislation, which deems, in certain circumstances, the income of a married woman to be the income of her husband and taxable as such.

(ii) The Government of Malta reserves the right to continue to apply its social security legislation, which in certain circumstances makes certain benefits payable to the head of the household, which is, by such legislation, presumed to be the husband.

Articles 13, 15 and 16

While the Government of Malta is committed to remove, insofar as possible, all aspects of family property law which may be considered as discriminatory to females, it reserves the right to continue to apply present legislation in that regard until such time as the law is reformed and during such transitory period until those laws are completely superseded.

Article 16

The Government of Malta does not consider itself bound by subparagraph (e) of paragraph 1 of article 16, insofar as the same may be interpreted as imposing an obligation on Malta to legalize abortion.

Mauritania

[Original: French]
[10 May 2001]

Reservation

The Government of Mauritania, having seen and examined the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1979, has approved and does approve it in each and every one of its parts which are not contrary to Islamic Shariah and are in accordance with our Constitution.

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[9 July 1984]

Reservations

The Government of Mauritius does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention, in pursuance of paragraph 2 of article 29.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[17 July 1980]

Declaration

In signing *ad referendum* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which the General Assembly opened for signature by States on 18 December 1979, the Government of the United Mexican States wishes to place on record that it is doing so on the understanding that the provisions of the said Convention, which agree in all essentials with the provisions of Mexican legislation, will be applied in Mexico in accordance with the modalities and procedures prescribed by Mexican legislation and that the granting of material benefits in pursuance of the Convention will be as generous as the resources available to the Mexican State permit.

Morocco

[Original: French]
[21 June 1993]

Declarations

Article 2

The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco expresses its readiness to apply the provisions of this article provided that:

- They are without prejudice to the constitutional requirements that regulate the rules of succession to the throne of the Kingdom of Morocco;
- They do not conflict with the provisions of the Islamic Shariah. It should be noted that certain of the provisions contained in the Moroccan Code of Personal Status according women rights that differ from the rights conferred on men may not be infringed upon or abrogated because they derive primarily from the Islamic Shariah, which strives, among its other objectives, to strike a balance between the spouses in order to preserve the coherence of family life.

Article 15, paragraph 4

The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco declares that it can only be bound by the provisions of this paragraph, in particular those relating to the rights of women to choose their residence and domicile, to the extent that they are not incompatible with articles 34 and 36 of the Moroccan Code of Personal Status.

Reservations

Article 9, paragraph 2

The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco makes a reservation with regard to this article in view of the fact that the Law of Moroccan Nationality permits a child to bear the nationality of its mother only in the cases where it is born to an unknown father, regardless of place of birth, or to a stateless father, when born in Morocco, and it does so in order to guarantee to each child its right to a nationality. Further, a child born in Morocco of a Moroccan mother and a foreign father may acquire the nationality of its mother by declaring, within two years of reaching the

age of majority, its desire to acquire that nationality, provided that, on making such declaration, its customary and regular residence is in Morocco.

Article 16

The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco makes a reservation with regard to the provisions of this article, particularly those relating to the equality of men and women in respect of rights and responsibilities on entry into and at dissolution of marriage. Equality of this kind is considered incompatible with the Islamic Shariah, which guarantees to each of the spouses the rights and responsibilities within a framework of equilibrium and complementarity in order to preserve the sacred bond of matrimony.

The provisions of the Islamic Shariah oblige the husband to provide a nuptial gift upon marriage and to support his family, while the wife is not required by law to support the family.

Furthermore, at dissolution of marriage, the husband is obliged to pay maintenance. In contrast, the wife enjoys complete freedom of disposition of her property during the marriage and upon its dissolution without supervision by the husband, the husband having no jurisdiction over his wife's property.

For these reasons, the Islamic Shariah confers the right of divorce on a woman only by decision of a Shariah judge.

Article 29

The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco does not consider itself bound by the first paragraph of this article, which provides that "any dispute between two or more States parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration".

The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco is of the view that any dispute of this kind can only be referred to arbitration by agreement of all the parties to the dispute.

Myanmar

[Original: English]
[22 July 1997]

Reservation

Article 29

[The Government of Myanmar] does not consider itself bound by the provision set forth in the said article.

Netherlands

[Original: English]
[23 July 1991]

Declaration

During the preparatory stages of the present Convention and in the course of debates on it in the General Assembly the position of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands was that it was not desirable to introduce political considerations such as those contained in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the preamble in a legal instrument of this nature. Moreover, the considerations are not directly related to the achievement of total equality between men and women. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that it must recall its objections to the said paragraphs in the preamble at this occasion.

New Zealand

[Original: English]
[10 January 1985]

Reservations

The Government of New Zealand, the Government of the Cook Islands and the Government of Niue reserve the right not to apply the provisions of article 11, paragraph 2 (b).

The Government of New Zealand, the Government of the Cook Islands and the Government of Niue reserve the right not to apply the provisions of the Convention insofar as they are inconsistent with policies relating to recruitment into or service in:

(a) The armed forces which reflect either directly or indirectly the fact that members of such forces are required to serve on armed forces aircraft or vessels and in situations involving armed combat; or

(b) The law enforcement forces which reflect either directly or indirectly the fact that members of such forces are required to serve in situations involving violence or threat of violence.

...

The Government of the Cook Islands reserves the right not to apply article 2 (f) and article 5 (a) to the extent that the customs governing the inheritance of certain Cook Islands chief titles may be inconsistent with those provisions.

Niger

[Original: French]
[8 October 1999]

Reservations

Article 2, paragraphs (d) and (f)

The Government of the Republic of the Niger expresses reservations with regard to article 2, paragraphs (d) and (f), concerning the taking of all appropriate measures to abolish all customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women, particularly in respect of succession.

Article 5, paragraph (a)

The Government of the Republic of the Niger expresses reservations with regard to the modification of social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women.

Article 15, paragraph 4

The Government of the Republic of the Niger declares that it can be bound by the provisions of the paragraph, particularly those concerning the right of women to choose their residence and domicile, only to the extent that these provisions refer only to unmarried women.

Article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (e) and (g)

The Government of the Republic of the Niger expresses reservations concerning the above-referenced provisions of article 16, particularly those concerning the same rights and responsibilities during marriage and its dissolution, the same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, and the right to choose a family name.

The Government of the Republic of the Niger declares that the provisions of article 2, paragraphs (d) and (f), article 5, paragraphs (a) and (b), article 15, paragraph 4, and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (e) and (g), concerning family relations, cannot be applied immediately, as they are contrary to existing customs and practices which, by their nature, can be modified only with the passage of time and the evolution of society and cannot therefore, be abolished by an act of authority.

Article 29

The Government of the Republic of the Niger, expresses a reservation concerning article 29, paragraph 1, which provides that any dispute between two or more States concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration.

In the view of the Government of the Niger, a dispute of this nature can be submitted to arbitration only with the consent of all parties to the dispute.

Declaration

The Government of the Republic of the Niger declares that the term "family education" which appears in article 5, paragraph (b), of the Convention should be interpreted as referring to public education concerning the family, and that in any event, article 5 would be applied in compliance with article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[12 March 1996]

Declaration

The accession by [the] Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the [said Convention] is subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Reservation

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan declares that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention.

Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[27 December 1984]

Reservations

The Government of the Republic of Korea does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979.

Bearing in mind the fundamental principles as embodied in the Convention, the Government of the Republic of Korea has recently established women's welfare and social activities. A committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister will shortly be set up to consider and coordinate overall policies on women.

The Government of the Republic of Korea will make continued efforts to take further measures in line with the provisions stipulated in the Convention.

The Government of the Republic of Korea, having examined the said Convention, hereby ratifies the Convention considering itself not bound by the provisions of article 9 and subparagraph [...] (g) of paragraph 1 of article 16 of the Convention.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: English]
[7 September 2000]

Reservations

1. In case of contradiction between any term of the Convention and norms of Islamic law, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not under obligation to observe the contradictory terms of the Convention.

2. The Kingdom does not consider itself bound by paragraph 2 of article 9 of the Convention and paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention.

Singapore

[Original: English]
[5 October 1995]

Reservations

In the context of Singapore's multiracial and multireligious society and the need to respect the freedom of minorities to practise their religious and personal laws, the Republic of Singapore reserves the right not to apply the provisions of articles 2 and 16 where compliance with these provisions would be contrary to their religious or personal laws.

Singapore is geographically one of the smallest independent countries in the world and one of the most densely populated. The Republic of Singapore accordingly reserves the right to apply such laws and conditions governing the entry into, stay in, employment of and departure from its territory of those who do not have the right under the laws of Singapore to enter and remain indefinitely in Singapore, and to the conferment, acquisitions and loss of citizenship of women who have acquired such citizenship by marriage and of children born outside Singapore.

Singapore interprets article 11, paragraph 1, in the light of the provisions of article 4, paragraph 2, as not precluding prohibitions, restrictions or conditions on the employment of women in certain areas, or on work done by them where this is considered necessary or desirable to protect the health and safety of women or the human foetus, including such prohibitions, restrictions or conditions imposed in consequence of other international obligations of Singapore, and

considers that legislation in respect of article 11 is unnecessary for the minority of women who do not fall within the ambit of Singapore's employment legislation.

The Republic of Singapore declares, in pursuance of article 29, paragraph 2, of the Convention, that it will not be bound by the provisions of article 29, paragraph 1.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[5 January 1984]

Declaration

The ratification of the Convention by Spain shall not affect the constitutional provisions concerning succession to the Spanish crown.

Switzerland

[Original: French]
[27 March 1997]

Reservations

Article 7 (b)

Said provisions shall be without prejudice to Swiss military legislation prohibiting women from performing functions involving armed conflict, except in self-defence.

Article 16, paragraph 1 (g)

Said provision shall be applied subject to the regulations on family name (Civil Code, article 160 and article 8 (a), final section).

Article 15, paragraph 2, and article 16, paragraph 1 (h)

Said provisions shall be applied subject to several interim provisions of the matrimonial regime (Civil Code, articles 9 (e) and 10, final section).

Thailand

[Original: English]
[9 August 1985]

Declaration

The Royal Thai Government wishes to express its understanding that the purposes of the Convention are to eliminate discrimination against women and to accord to every person, men and women alike, equality before the law, and are in accordance with the principles prescribed by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Reservation

The Royal Thai Government does not consider itself bound by the provisions of [...] article 16 and article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]
[12 January 1990]

Reservation

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago declares that it does not consider itself bound by article 29 (1) of the said Convention, relating to the settlement of disputes.

Tunisia

[Original: Arabic]
[20 September 1985]

General declaration

The Tunisian Government declares that it shall not take any organizational or legislative decision in conformity with the requirements of this Convention where such a decision would conflict with the provisions of chapter I of the Tunisian Constitution.

Declaration concerning article 15, paragraph 4

In accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, dated 23 May 1969, the Tunisian Government emphasizes that the requirements of article 15, paragraph 4, of the

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and particularly that part relating to the right of women to choose their residence and domicile, must not be interpreted in a manner which conflicts with the provisions of the Personal Status Code on this subject, as set forth in chapters 23 and 61 of the Code.

Reservations

Article 9, paragraph 2

The Tunisian Government expresses its reservation with regard to the provisions in article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, which must not conflict with the provisions of chapter VI of the Tunisian Nationality Code.

Article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h)

The Tunisian Government considers itself not bound by article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d) and (f), of the Convention and declares that paragraph 1 (g) and (h) of that article must not conflict with the provisions of the Personal Status Code concerning the granting of family names to children and the acquisition of property through inheritance.

Article 29, paragraph 1

The Tunisian Government declares, in conformity with the requirements of article 29, paragraph 2, of the Convention, that it shall not be bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of that article, which specify that any dispute between two or more States parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall be referred to the International Court of Justice at the request of any one of those parties.

The Tunisian Government considers that such disputes should be submitted for arbitration or consideration by the International Court of Justice only with the consent of all parties to the dispute.

Turkey

[Original: English]
[20 December 1985]

Reservations

Reservations of the Government of the Republic of Turkey with regard to the articles of the Convention dealing with family relations which are not completely compatible with the provisions of the Turkish Civil Code, in particular, article 15, paragraphs 2 and 4, and article 16, paragraphs 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g), as well as with respect to article 29, paragraph 1. In pursuance of article 29, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Government of the Republic of Turkey declares that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this article.

Declaration

Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention is not in conflict with the provisions of article 5, paragraph 1, and articles 15 and 17 of the Turkish Law on Nationality, relating to the acquisition of citizenship, since the intent of those provisions regulating acquisition of citizenship through marriage is to prevent statelessness.

Reservation

[...] The reservation and declaration made upon signature and confirmed ratification by the Government of Turkey with respect to article 29, paragraph 1, and article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, respectively, continue to apply.

United Kingdom of Great Britain And Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[7 April 1986]

Declarations and reservations

A. On behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(a) The United Kingdom understands the main purpose of the Convention, in the light of the definition contained in article 1, to be the reduction, in

accordance with its terms, of discrimination against women, and does not therefore regard the Convention as imposing any requirement to repeal or modify any existing laws, regulations, customs or practices which provide for women to be treated more favourably than men, whether temporarily or in the longer term; the United Kingdom's undertakings under article 4, paragraph 1, and other provisions of the Convention are to be construed accordingly.

...

(c) In the light of the definition contained in article 1, the United Kingdom's ratification is subject to the understanding that none of its obligations under the Convention shall be treated as extending to the succession to, or possession and enjoyment of, the Throne, the peerage, titles of honour, social precedence or armorial bearings, or as extending to the affairs of religious denominations or orders or to the admission into or service in the Armed Forces of the Crown.

(d) The United Kingdom reserves the right to continue to apply such immigration legislation governing entry into, stay in and departure from the United Kingdom as it may deem necessary from time to time and, accordingly, its acceptance of article 15 (4) and of the other provisions of the Convention is subject to the provisions of any such legislation as regards persons not at the time having the right under the law of the United Kingdom to enter and remain in the United Kingdom.

...

Article 9

The British Nationality Act 1981, which was brought into force with effect from January 1983, is based on principles which do not allow of any discrimination against women within the meaning of article 1 as regards acquisition, change or retention of their nationality or as regards the nationality of their children. The United Kingdom's acceptance of article 9 shall not, however, be taken to invalidate the continuation of certain temporary or transitional provisions which will continue in force beyond that date.

...

Article 11

...

The United Kingdom reserves the right to apply all United Kingdom legislation and the rules of pension schemes affecting retirement pensions, survivors' benefits and other benefits in relation to death or retirement (including retirement on grounds of redundancy), whether or not derived from a social security scheme.

This reservation will apply equally to any future legislation which may modify or replace such legislation, or the rules of pension schemes, on the understanding that the terms of such legislation will be compatible with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

The United Kingdom reserves the right to apply the following provisions of United Kingdom legislation concerning the benefits specified:

...

(b) Increases of benefit for adult dependants under sections 44 to 47, 49 and 66 of the Social Security Act 1975 and under sections 44 to 47, 49 and 66 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975;

...

The United Kingdom reserves the right to apply any non-discriminatory requirement for a qualifying period of employment or insurance for the application of the provisions contained in article 11, paragraph 2.

Article 15

...

In relation to article 15, paragraph 3, the United Kingdom understands the intention of this provision to be that only those terms or elements of a contract or other private instrument which are discriminatory in the sense described are to be deemed null and void, but not necessarily the contract or instrument as a whole.

Article 16

As regards paragraph 1 (f) of article 16, the United Kingdom does not regard the reference to the paramountcy of the interests of the children as being directly relevant to the elimination of discrimination against women, and declares in this connection that the legislation of the United Kingdom regulating adoption,

while giving a principal position to the promotion of the children's welfare, does not give to the child's interests the same paramount place as in issues concerning custody over children.

...

B. On behalf of the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the Isle of Man, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands

[Same declarations and reservations as those made in respect of the United Kingdom under section A, paragraphs (a), (c) and (d), except that in the case of (d) they apply to the territories and their laws.]

Article 1

[Same reservation as the one made in respect of the United Kingdom except with regard to the absence of a reference to United Kingdom legislation.]

Article 2

[Same reservation as the one made in respect of the United Kingdom except that reference is made to the laws of the territories, and not to the laws of the United Kingdom.]

Article 9

[Same reservation as the one made in respect of the United Kingdom.]

Article 11

[Same reservations as those made in respect of the United Kingdom except that reference is made to the laws of the territories, and not to the laws of the United Kingdom.]

Also, as far as the territories are concerned, the specific benefits listed and which may be applied under the provisions of these territories' legislation are as follows:

(a) Social security benefits for persons engaged in caring for a severely disabled person;

(b) Increases of benefit for adult dependants;

(c) Retirement pensions and survivors' benefits;

(d) Family income supplements.

This reservation will apply equally to any future legislation which may modify or replace any of the provisions specified in subparagraphs (a) to (d) above, on the understanding that the terms of such legislation will be compatible with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

The United Kingdom reserves the right to apply any non-discriminatory requirement for a qualifying period of employment or insurance for the application of the provisions contained in article 11, paragraph 2.

Articles 13, 15 and 16

[Same reservations as those made in respect of the United Kingdom.]

Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]
[2 May 1983]

Reservation

Venezuela makes a formal reservation with regard to article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention, since it does not accept arbitration or the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention.

Viet Nam

[Original: French]
[17 February 1982]

Reservation

In implementing this Convention, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam will not be bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 29.

Yemen*

[Original: Arabic]
[30 May 1984]

The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen declares that it does not consider itself bound by article 29, paragraph 1, of the said Convention, relating to the settlement of disputes which may arise concerning the application or interpretation of the Convention.

C. Objections to certain declarations and reservations

Objection by Argentina to the application of the Convention to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands by the United Kingdom, notified upon ratification

[Original: Spanish]
[4 April 1989]

The Republic of Argentina rejects the extension of the territorial application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1979, to the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, notified by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland upon its ratification of that instrument on 7 April 1986.

The Republic of Argentina reaffirms its sovereignty over the aforementioned archipelagos, which are an integral part of its national territory, and recalls that the General Assembly adopted resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12 and 39/6, in which a sovereignty dispute is recognized and the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom are urged to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute and their remaining differences relating to this question, through the good offices of the Secretary-General. The General Assembly also adopted resolutions 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, which reiterate its request to the parties to resume such negotiations.

Communication of the United Kingdom concerning the objection of Argentina

[Original: English]
[27 November 1989]

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland rejects the statement made by the Government of Argentina on 4 April 1989 regarding the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has no doubt as to British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and its consequent right to extend treaties to those Territories.

Objection by Austria to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession

[Original: English]
[13 February 2002]

With regard to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession:

The Government of Austria has examined the reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in its note to the Secretary-General of 5 June 2001.

The Government of Austria considers that, in the absence of further clarification, this reservation raises doubts as to the degree of commitment assumed by Mauritania in becoming a party to the Convention since it refers to the contents of Islamic Shariah and to existing national legislation in Mauritania. The Government of Austria would like to recall that, according to art. 28 (2) of the Convention as well as customary international law as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of a treaty shall not be permitted.

It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties are respected as to their object and purpose, by all parties, and that States are prepared to undertake any

* Ratification was effected by the former Democratic Yemen.

legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties.

For these reasons, the Government of Austria objects to this reservation made by the Government of Mauritania.

This position, however, does not preclude the entry into force in its entirety of the Convention between Mauritania and Austria.

Objection by Austria to the reservation made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[21 August 2001]

With regard to reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

Austria has examined the reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in its note to the Secretary-General of 27 February 2001.

Taking into consideration that, according to paragraph 2 of article 28 of the Convention, reservations which are incompatible with the objective and purpose of the Convention are not acceptable, Austria objects to the reservations in respect of paragraph (f) of article 2 and paragraph 2 of article 9.

Both paragraphs refer to basic aspects of the Convention that are legislation to abolish existing discrimination against women and a specific form of discrimination, such as the nationality of children.

This position, however, does not preclude the entry into force in its entirety of the Convention between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Austria.

Objection by Austria to the reservation made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[21 August 2001]

With regard to reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

Austria has examined the reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in its note to the Secretary-General of 7 September 2000.

The fact that the reservation concerning any interpretation of the provisions of the Convention that is incompatible with the norms of Islamic law does not clearly specify the provisions of the Convention to which it applies and the extent of the derogation therefrom raises doubts as to the commitment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention.

Given the general character of this reservation a final assessment as to its admissibility under international law cannot be made without further clarification. Until the scope of the legal effects of this reservation is sufficiently specified by the Government of Saudi Arabia, Austria considers the reservation as not affecting any provision the implementation of which is essential to fulfilling the object and purpose of the Convention. In Austria's view, however, the reservation in question is inadmissible to the extent that its application negatively affects the compliance by Saudi Arabia with its obligations under the Convention essential for the fulfilment of its object and purpose. Austria does not consider the reservation made by the Government of Saudi Arabia as admissible unless the Government of Saudi Arabia, by providing additional information or through subsequent practice, ensures that the reservation is compatible with the provisions essential for the implementation of the object and purpose of the Convention.

As to the reservation to paragraph 2 of article 9 of the Convention Austria is of the view that the exclusion of such an important provision of non-discrimination is not compatible with object and purpose of the Convention. Austria therefore objects to this reservation.

This position, however, does not preclude the entry into force in its entirety of the Convention between Saudi Arabia and Austria.

Objection by Austria to the reservation made by Lebanon upon accession

[Original: English]
[20 February 1998]

With regard to reservations made by Lebanon upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Pakistan.]

Objection by Austria to the reservations made by Pakistan upon accession

[Original: English]
[5 June 1997]

Austria is of the view that a reservation by which a State limits its responsibilities under the Convention in a general and unspecified manner by invoking internal law creates doubts as to the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with its obligations under the Convention, essential for the fulfilment of its object and purpose.

It is in the common interests of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties are respected, as to their object and purpose, by all parties and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties.

Austria is further of the view that a general reservation of the kind made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which does not clearly specify the provisions of the Convention to which it applies and the extent of the derogation therefrom, contributes to undermining the basis of international treaty law.

Given the general character of this reservation, a final assessment as to its admissibility under international law cannot be made without further clarification.

According to international law a reservation is inadmissible to the extent as its application negatively affects the compliance by a State with its obligations under the Convention essential for the fulfilment of its object and purpose.

Therefore, Austria cannot consider the reservation made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as admissible unless the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, by providing additional information or through subsequent practice, ensure that the reservation is compatible with the provisions essential for the implementation of the object and purpose of the Convention.

This view by Austria would not preclude the entry into force in its entirety of the Convention between Pakistan and Austria.

Objection by Austria to the reservations made by Maldives upon accession

[Original: English]
[26 October 1994]

The reservation made by the Maldives is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and is therefore inadmissible under article 19 (c) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and shall not be permitted, in accordance with article 28 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Austria therefore states that this reservation cannot alter or modify in any respect the obligations arising from the Convention for any State Party thereto.

Objection by Canada to the reservations made by Maldives upon accession

[Original: English]
[25 October 1994]

In the view of the Government of Canada, this reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2). The Government of Canada therefore enters its formal objection to this reservation. This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Canada and the Republic of Maldives.

Objection by Denmark to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[21 February 2002]

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of Denmark has examined the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in respect of paragraph (f) of article 2 and paragraph 2 of article 9.

The Government of Denmark finds that the reservation to paragraph (f) of article 2 aims at excluding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the obligation to adopt necessary measures, including those of a legislative character, to eliminate any form of discrimination against women. This provision touches upon a key element for effective elimination of discrimination against women.

The Government of Denmark furthermore notes that the reservation to paragraph 2 of article 9 of the Convention aims to exclude an obligation of non-discrimination, which is the aim of the Convention.

The Government of Denmark finds that the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are not in conformity with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Government of Denmark therefore objects to the said reservation made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Government of Denmark recommends the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reconsider its reservations to the Convention.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women remains in force in its entirety between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Denmark.

Objection by Denmark to the reservations made by Mauritania upon accession

[Original: English]
[21 February 2002]

With regard to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession:

The Government of Denmark has examined the reservations made by the Government of Mauritania upon accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as to any interpretation of the provisions of the Convention that is incompatible with the norms of Islamic law and the Constitution in Mauritania.

The Government of Denmark finds that the general reservation with reference to the provisions of Islamic law and the Constitution are of unlimited scope and undefined character. Consequently, the Government of Denmark considers the said reservation as being incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and accordingly inadmissible and without effect under international law.

The Government of Denmark therefore objects to the aforesaid reservation made by the Government of Mauritania to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention in its entirety between Mauritania and Denmark.

The Government of Denmark recommends the Government of Mauritania to reconsider its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Objection by Denmark to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[10 August 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of Denmark has examined the reservations made by the Government of Saudi Arabia upon ratification on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as to any interpretation of the provisions of the Convention that is incompatible with the norms of Islamic law.

The Government of Denmark finds that the general reservation with reference to the provisions of Islamic law are of unlimited scope and undefined character. Consequently, the Government of Denmark considers the said reservations as being incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and accordingly inadmissible and without effect under international law.

The Government of Denmark furthermore notes that the reservation to paragraph 2 of article 9 of the Convention aims to exclude one obligation of non-

discrimination which is the aim of the Convention and therefore renders this reservation contrary to the essence of the Convention.

The Government of Denmark therefore objects to the aforesaid reservations made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

These objections shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention in its entirety between Saudi Arabia and Denmark.

The Government of Denmark recommends the Government of Saudi Arabia to reconsider its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Objection by Denmark to the reservations made by the Niger upon accession

[Original: English]
[2 November 2000]

With regard to the reservations to article 2, paragraphs (d) and (f), article 5, paragraph (a), article 15, paragraph (4) and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (e) and (g) made by the Niger upon accession:

The Government of Denmark finds that the reservations made by the Government of the Niger are not in conformity with the object and purpose of the Convention. The provisions in respect of which the Niger has made reservations cover fundamental rights of women and establish key elements for the elimination of discrimination against women. For this reason, the Government of Denmark objects to the said reservations made by the Government of the Niger.

The Convention remains in force in its entirety between the Niger and Denmark.

It is the opinion of the Government of Denmark, that no time limit applies to objections against reservations, which are inadmissible under international law.

The Government of Denmark recommends the Government of the Niger to reconsider its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Objection by Denmark to the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon accession

[Original: English]
[3 July 1990]

The Government of Denmark has taken note of the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya when acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In the view of the Government of Denmark this reservation is subject to the general principle of treaty interpretation according to which a party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for failure to perform a treaty obligation.

Objection by Finland to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession

[Original: English]
[20 May 2002]

With regard to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession:

The Government of Finland has carefully examined the contents of the reservation made by the Government of Mauritania to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Government of Finland notes that a reservation which consists of a general reference to religious or other national law without specifying its contents does not clearly define to other Parties to the Convention the extent to which the reserving State commits itself to the Convention and therefore creates serious doubts as to the commitment of the reserving State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.

Furthermore, reservations are subject to the general principle of treaty interpretation according to which a party may not invoke the provisions of its domestic law as justification for a failure to perform its treaty obligations.

The Government of Finland recalls part VI, article 28, of the Convention according to which reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

The Government of Finland therefore objects to the above-mentioned reservation made by the Government of Mauritania to the Convention.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Mauritania and Finland. The Convention will thus become operative between the two States without Mauritania benefiting from the reservations.

Objection by Finland to the reservation made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[5 March 2002]

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of Finland has carefully examined the contents of the reservations made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Government of Finland recalls that, by acceding to the Convention, a State commit itself to adopt the measures required for the elimination of discrimination, in all its forms and manifestations, against women.

The Government of Finland notes that the reservation to paragraph (f) of article 2 aims at excluding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the obligations to adopt necessary measures, including those of a legislative character, to eliminate any form of discrimination against women. This provision touches upon a key element for effective elimination of discrimination against women.

The Government of Finland further notes that the reservation to paragraph 2 of article 9 of the Convention aims to exclude an obligation of non-discrimination, which is the aim of the Convention.

The Government of Finland also recalls part VI, article 28, of the Convention according to which reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

The Government of Finland finds that the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are not in conformity with the object and purpose of the Convention and therefore objects to the said reservations.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Finland. The Convention will thus become operative between the two States without the Democratic People's Republic of Korea benefiting from the reservations.

Objection by Finland to the reservation made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[8 October 2002]

With regard to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of Finland has examined the contents of the reservations made by the Government of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Government of Finland recalls that, by acceding to the Convention, a State commits itself to adopt the measures required for the elimination of discrimination, in all its forms and manifestations, against women.

A reservation which consists of a general reference to religious law and national law without specifying its contents, as the first part of the reservation made by Saudi Arabia, does not clearly define to other Parties to the Convention the extent to which the reserving State commits itself to the Convention and therefore creates serious doubts as to the commitment of the reserving State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.

Furthermore, .reservations are subject to the general principle of treaty interpretation according to which a party may not invoke the provisions of its domestic law as justification for a failure to perform its treaty obligations.

As the reservation to paragraph 2 of article 9 aims to exclude one of the fundamental obligations under the Convention, it is the view of the Government of Finland that the reservation is not compatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Government of Finland also recalls part VI, article 28, of the Convention according to which reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

The Government of Finland therefore objects to the above-mentioned reservations made by the Government of Saudi Arabia to the Convention.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Saudi Arabia and Finland. The Convention will thus become operative between the two States without Saudi Arabia benefiting from the reservations.

Objection by Finland to the reservation made by the Niger upon accession

[Original: English]
[24 October 2000]

With regard to the reservations made by the Niger upon accession:

The Government of Finland notes that the reservations are not in conformity with the object and purpose of the Convention. By acceding to the Convention, a State commits itself to adopt the measures required for the elimination of discrimination against women, in all its forms and manifestations. This includes taking appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women.

As it appears evident that the Government of the Republic of the Niger will not apply the Convention with a view to fulfilling its treaty obligations to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and submits reservations to some of the most essential provisions of the Convention, the above-mentioned reservations are in contradiction with the object and purpose of the Convention. The Government of Finland recalls part VI, article 28, of the Convention according to which reservations incompatible with object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

The Government of Finland therefore objects to the above-mentioned reservations made by the Government of the Niger to the Convention. This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Niger and Finland. The Convention will thus become operative between the two States without the Niger benefiting from the reservations.

Objection by Finland to the declaration made by Pakistan upon accession

[Original: English]
[6 June 1997]

With regard to the declaration made by Pakistan upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Malaysia.]

Objection by Finland to the reservations made by Singapore upon accession

[Original: English]
[21 November 1996]

With regard to the reservations made by Singapore upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Malaysia.]

Objection by Finland to the reservation made by Lesotho upon ratification

[Original: English]
[1 November 1996]

With regard to the reservations made by Lesotho upon ratification:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Malaysia.]

Objection by Finland to the modified reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon accession

[Original: English]
[16 October 1996]

The Government of Finland has examined the contents of the modified reservation made by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

A reservation which consists of a general reference to religious law without specifying its contents does not clearly define to the other parties to the Convention the extent to which the reserving State commits itself to the Convention and therefore may

cast doubts about the commitment of the reserving State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. Such a reservation is also, in the view of the Government of Finland, subject to the general principle of the observance of treaties according to which a party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for failure to perform a treaty obligation.

Objection by Finland to the reservations made by Malaysia upon accession

[Original: English]
[16 October 1996]

The Government of Finland has examined the contents of the reservations made by the Government of Malaysia upon accession to the said Convention.

The reservations made by Malaysia, consisting of a general reference to religious and national law without specifying the contents thereof and without stating unequivocally the provisions the legal effect of which may be excluded or modified, do not clearly define to the other parties to the Convention the extent to which the reserving State commits itself to the Convention and therefore creates serious doubts about the commitment of the reserving State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. Reservations of such unspecified nature may contribute to undermining the basis of international human rights treaties.

The Government of Finland also recalls that the reservations of Malaysia are subject to the general principle of observance of treaties according to which a party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for failure to perform its treaty obligations. It is in the common interest of States that parties to international treaties are prepared to take the necessary legislative changes in order to fulfil the object and purpose of the treaty.

Furthermore, the reservations made by Malaysia, in particular to articles 2 (f) and 5 (a), are to fundamental provisions of the Convention the implementation of which is essential to fulfilling its object and purpose.

The Government of Finland considers that in their present formulation the reservations made by Malaysia are clearly incompatible with the object and purpose of the said Convention and therefore inadmissible under article 28, paragraph 2, of the said Convention. In view of the above, the Government of Finland objects to these reservations and notes that they are devoid of legal effect.

Objection by Finland to reservations made by Kuwait upon accession

[Original: English]
[17 January 1996]

The Government of Finland recalls that, by acceding to the Convention, a State commits itself to adopt the measures required for the elimination of discrimination, in all its forms and manifestations, against women. In particular, article 7 requires States parties to undertake actions to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country. This is a fundamental provision of the Convention the implementation of which is essential to fulfilling its object and purpose.

Reservations to article 7 (a) and article 9, paragraph 2, are both subject to the general principle of the observance of treaties according to which a party may not invoke the provision of its internal law as justification for its failure to perform its treaty obligations. It is in the common interest of States that contracting parties to international treaties are prepared to undertake the necessary legislative changes in order to fulfil the object and purpose of the treaty.

Furthermore, in the view of the Government of Finland, the unlimited and undefined character of the reservation to article 16 (f) leaves open to what extent the reserving State commits itself to the Convention and therefore creates serious doubts about the commitment of the reserving State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. Reservations of such unspecified nature may contribute to undermining the basis of international human rights treaties.

In their present formulation the reservations are clearly incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and therefore inadmissible under article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention. Therefore, the Government of Finland objects to these reservations. The Government of Finland further notes that the reservations made by the Government of Kuwait are devoid of legal effect.

The Government of Finland recommends that the Government of Kuwait reconsider its reservations to the Convention.

Objection by Finland to the reservations made by Maldives upon accession

[Original: English]
[5 May 1994]

In the view of the Government of Finland, the unlimited and underlined character of the said reservations create serious doubts about the commitment of the reserving State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. In their extensive formulation, they are clearly contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention. Therefore, the Government of Finland objects to such reservations.

The Government of Finland also recalls that the said reservations are subject to the general principle of treaty interpretation according to which a party may not invoke the provisions of its domestic law as a justification for failure to perform its treaty obligations.

The Government of Finland does not, however, consider that this objection constitutes an obstacle to the entry into force of the Convention between Finland and Maldives.

Objection by Finland to the reservations made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon accession

[Original: English]
[8 June 1990]

The Government of Finland has examined the contents of the reservations made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and considers the said reservations as being incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. The Government of Finland therefore enters its formal objection to this reservation.

This objection is not an obstacle to the entry into force of the said Convention between Finland and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Objection by France to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[4 March 2002]

With regard to reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

Having considered the reservations and declarations made on 27 February 2001 by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 18 December 1979, the Government of the French Republic objects to the said reservations and declarations relating to article 2, paragraph (f), and article 9, paragraph 2.

Objection by France to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[26 June 2001]

With regard to reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of the French Republic has examined the reserva made by the Government of the Kingdom of Sau a to the Convention on the Elimination of All of Discrimination against Women, adopted in New York on 18 December 1979. By stating that in case of contradiction between any term of the Convention and the norms of Islamic law, it is not under obligation to observe the terms of the Convention, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia formulates a reservation of general, indeterminate scope that gives the other States parties absolutely no idea which provisions of the Convention are affected or might be affected in future. The Government of the French Republic believes that the reservation could make the provisions of the Convention completely ineffective and therefore objects to it. The second reservation, concerning article 9, paragraph 2, rules out equality of rights between men and women with respect to the nationality of their children and the Government of the French Republic therefore objects to it.

These objections do not preclude the Convention's entry into force between Saudi Arabia and France. The reservation rejecting the means of

dispute settlement provided for in article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention is in conformity with the provisions of article 29, paragraph 2.

Objection by Germany to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession

[Original: English]
[14 March 2002]

With regard to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession:

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has examined the reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women made by the Government of Mauritania at the time of its accession to the Convention. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is of the view that the reservation with regard to the compatibility of the rules of the Convention with the precepts of Islamic Shariah and the Constitution of Mauritania raises doubts as to the commitment of Mauritania to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany considers this reservation to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. Therefore the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany objects to the aforesaid reservation made by the Government of Mauritania to the Convention.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Federal Republic of Germany and Mauritania.

Objection by Germany to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[2 October 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has examined the reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon its accession to the Convention. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is of the view that the reservations to article 2, paragraph (f), and article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, for they aim at excluding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's obligations in respect of two basic aspects of the Convention.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany therefore objects to the aforesaid reservations made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Objection by Germany to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[19 January 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is of the view that the reservation, with regard to compatibility of rules under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with Islamic law, raises doubts as to the commitment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany considers this reservation to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany notes furthermore that the reservation to paragraph 2 of article 9 aims to exclude one obligation of non-discrimination which is so important in the context of the Convention as to render this reservation contrary to the essence of the Convention.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany therefore objects to the aforesaid reservations made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Objection by Germany to the reservations made by Algeria upon accession

[Original: English]
[14 August 1997]

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has examined the contents of the reservations made by the Government of Algeria on its accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in which the Government of Algeria stated its readiness to apply article 2, article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraph 4, and article 16 of the Convention provided that they do not conflict with Algerian family law.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany considers that such reservation seeking to limit the validity of the Convention by making it contingent upon congruity with Algerian family law may raise doubts as to Algeria's commitment to the object and purpose of the Convention. The Convention does not allow for reservations arguing the primacy of national law. It is in the common interest of all parties to a treaty that it is respected as to object and purpose by all parties. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany therefore objects to the above-mentioned reservations.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Algeria and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Objection by Germany to the reservations made by Pakistan upon accession

[Original: English]
[28 May 1997]

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has examined the contents of the "general declaration" made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on its accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The declaration reads: "The accession by [the] Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan."

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany considers that such a declaration which seeks to limit the validity of the Convention by making it contingent upon congruity with the Pakistan Constitution may raise doubts as to Pakistan's commitment to the object and purpose of the Convention. Such a reservation referring generally to the Constitution is not permitted under the Convention. It is in the common interest of all parties to a treaty that it is respected as to object and purpose by all parties. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany therefore objects to the above-mentioned declaration.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Objection by Germany to the reservations made by Malaysia upon accession

iginal: English]
,8 October 1996]

The Government of M sia declares that Malaysia's accession is subject to the understanding that the provisions of the Convention do not conflict with the provisions of the Islamic Shariah law and the Federal Constitution of Malaysia. With regard thereto, further, the Government of Malaysia does not consider itself bound by the provisions of articles 2 (f), 5 (a), 7 (b), 9 and 16 of the aforesaid Convention.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany considers that the declaration and reservations, which seek to limit the responsibilities of Malaysia under the Convention by restricting them to the Islamic Shariah and to already existing national legislation and by restricting the application of central articles of the Convention, may raise doubts as to the commitment of Malaysia to the object and purpose of the Convention. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany therefore objects to these reservations and the declaration.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany does not, however, consider that this objection constitutes an obstacle to the entry into force of the Convention between Germany and Malaysia.

Objections of the same nature by the Government of Germany to the reservations made by Bangladesh, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mauritius, Thailand and Turkey upon accession and by Brazil, Egypt, Jamaica, the Republic of Korea and Tunisia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[10 July 1985]

The Federal Republic of Germany considers that the reservations made by Egypt regarding article 2, article 9, paragraph 2, and article 16, by Bangladesh regarding article 2, article 13 (a) and article 16, paragraph 1 (c) and (f), by Brazil regarding article 15, paragraph 4, and article 16, paragraph 1 (a), (c), (g) and (h), by Jamaica regarding article 9, paragraph 2, by the Republic of Korea regarding article 9 and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g), and by Mauritius regarding article 11, paragraph 1 (b) and (d), and article 16, paragraph 1 (g), are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2) and therefore objects to them. In relation to the Federal Republic of Germany, they may not be invoked in support of a legal practice which does not pay due regard to the legal status afforded to women and children in the Federal Republic of Germany in conformity with the above-mentioned articles of the Convention. This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention as between Egypt, Bangladesh, Brazil, Jamaica, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Objections of the same nature were also formulated by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in regard to reservations made by various States, as follows:

(a) *15 October 1986*: In respect of reservations formulated by the Government of Thailand concerning article 9, paragraph 2, article 10, article 11, paragraph 1 (b), article 15, paragraph 3, and article 16. (The Federal Republic of Germany also holds the view that the reservation made by Thailand regarding article 7 of the Convention is likewise incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention because for all matters which concern national security it reserves in a general and thus unspecific manner the right of the Royal Thai Government to apply the provisions only within the limits established by national laws, regulations and practices.);

(b) *15 October 1986*: In respect of reservations and some declarations formulated by the Government of Tunisia concerning article 9, paragraph 2, and article 16, as well as the declaration concerning article 15, paragraph 4;

(c) *3 March 1987*: In respect of reservations made by the Government of Turkey to article 15, paragraphs 2 and 4, and article 16, paragraphs 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g); in respect of reservations made by the Government of Iraq with regard to article 2, subparagraphs (f) and (g), article 9 and article 16;

(d) *7 April 1988*: In respect of the first reservation made by the Government of Malawi;

(e) *20 June 1990*: In respect of the reservation made by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

(f) *24 October 1994*: In respect of the reservations made by Maldives.

Objection by Ireland to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[2 October 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of Ireland has examined the reservation made, on 7 September 2000, by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in respect of any divergence between the terms of the Convention and the norms of Islamic law. It has also examined the reservation made on the same date by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention concerning the granting to women of equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

As to the former of the aforesaid reservations, the Government of Ireland is of the view that a reservation which consists of a general reference to religious law without specifying the content thereof and which does not clearly specify the provisions of the Convention to which it applies and the extent of the derogation therefrom, may cast doubts on the commitment of the reserving State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. The Government of Ireland is furthermore

of the view that such a general reservation may undermine the basis of international treaty law.

As to the reservation to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Government of Ireland considers that such a reservation aims to exclude one obligation of non-discrimination which is so important in the context of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as to render this reservation contrary to the essence of the Convention. The Government of Ireland notes in this connection that article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention provides that a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

The Government of Ireland moreover recalls that, by ratifying the Convention, a State commits itself to adopting the measures required for the elimination of discrimination, in all its forms and manifestations, against women.

The Government of Ireland therefore objects to the aforesaid reservations made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Ireland and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Objection by Mexico to the reservations made by Bangladesh, Cyprus, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius, Thailand and Turkey upon accession and by Egypt, Jamaica, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea upon ratification, and communication regarding Malawi

[Original: Spanish]
[11 January 1985]

The Government of the United Mexican States has studied the content of the reservations made by Mauritius to article 11, paragraphs 1 (b) and (d), and article 16, paragraph 1 (g), of the Convention and concluded that they should be considered invalid in the light of article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention, because they are incompatible with its object and purpose.

Indeed, these reservations, if implemented, would inevitably result in discrimination against women on the basis of sex, which is contrary to all the articles of the Convention. The principles of equal rights of men and women and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, which are embodied in the second preambular paragraph and article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, to which Mauritius is a signatory, and in articles 2 and 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, were previously accepted by the Government of Mauritius when it acceded, on 12 December 1973, to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The above-mentioned principles were stated in article 2, paragraph 1, and article 3 of the former Covenant and in article 2, paragraph 2, and article 3 of the latter. Consequently, it is inconsistent with these contractual obligations previously assumed by Mauritius for its Government now to claim that it has reservations, on the same subject, about the 1979 Convention.

The objection of the Government of the United Mexican States to the reservations in question should not be interpreted as an impediment to the entry into force of the 1979 Convention between the United Mexican States and Mauritius.

Objections, identical in essence, mutatis mutandis, were also formulated by the Government of Mexico in regard to the reservations made by various States, as follows [for the States which were not Parties to the Covenants (marked below with an asterisk), the participation in the Covenants was not invoked by Mexico in its objection with regard to reservations]:

(a) *21 February 1985*: In respect of reservations made by the Government of Bangladesh* concerning article 2, article 13, subparagraph (a), and article 16, paragraph 1 (c) and (f);

(b) *21 February 1985*: In respect of the reservation made by the Government of Jamaica concerning article 9, paragraph 2;

(c) *22 May 1985*: In respect of reservations made by the Government of New Zealand (applicable to the Cook Islands) concerning article 2, subparagraph (f), and article 5, subparagraph (a);

(d) *6 June 1985*: In respect of reservations made by the Government of the Republic of Korea concerning article 9 and article 16, paragraphs 1 (c),

(d), (e), (f) and (g). In this case, the Government of Mexico stated that the principle of the equal rights of men and women and of non-discrimination on the basis of sex, which are set forth in the Charter of the United Nations as one of its purposes, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and in various multilateral instruments, have already become general principles of international law which apply to the international community, to which the Republic of Korea belongs;

(e) *29 January 1986*: In respect of the reservation made by the Government of Cyprus to article 9, paragraph 2;

(f) *7 May 1986*: In respect of the reservations made by the Government of Turkey* to paragraphs 2 and 4 of article 15 and paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g) of article 16;

(g) *16 July 1986*: In respect of the reservations made by the Government of Egypt to articles 9 and 16;

(h) *16 October 1986*: In respect of the reservations made by Thailand* concerning article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraph 3, and article 16;

(i) *4 December 1986*: In respect of the reservations made by Iraq concerning article 2, subparagraphs (f) and (g), article 9, paragraphs 1 and 2, and article 16;

(j) *23 July 1990*: In respect of the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession

[Original: English]
[8 February 2002]

With regard to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession:

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has examined the reservation made by the Government of Mauritania at the time of its accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and considers that the reservation concerning the Islamic Shariah and the national law of Mauritania, which seeks to limit the responsibilities of the reserving State under the Convention by invoking the Shariah and national law, may raise doubts as to the commitment of this State to the object and purpose of the Convention and, moreover, contribute to undermining the basis of international treaty law. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands recalls that, according to paragraph 2 of article 28 of the Convention, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become party are respected, as to their object and purpose, by all parties and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore objects to the aforesaid reservation made by the Government of Mauritania to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Mauritania.

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[18 September 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has examined the reservations made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regarding article 2, paragraph (f), and article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women made at the time of its accession to the said Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regarding article 2, paragraph (f), and article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention are reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands recalls that, according to paragraph 2 of article 28 of the Convention, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become party are respected, as to their object and purpose, by all parties and that States are prepared to take all appropriate measures, including legislation to comply with their obligations.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore objects to the aforesaid reservations made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[18 September 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has examined the reservations made by the Government of Saudi Arabia at the time of its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the reservation concerning the national law of Saudi Arabia, which seeks to limit the responsibilities of the reserving State under the Convention by invoking national law, may raise doubts as to the commitment of this State to the object and purpose of the Convention and, moreover, contribute to undermining the basis of international treaty law.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands furthermore considers that the reservation made by Saudi Arabia regarding article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands recalls that according to paragraph 2 of article 28 of the Convention, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become party should be respected, as to object and purpose, by all parties. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore objects to the aforesaid reservations made by the Government of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia.

Objection by the Netherlands to the modified reservations made by Malaysia upon accession

[Original: English]
[21 July 1998]

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has examined the modification of the reservations made by Malaysia to article 5 (a) and article 16, paragraph 1 (a) and paragraph 2 of the [Convention].

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands acknowledges that Malaysia has specified these reservations, made at the time of its accession to the Convention. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to declare that it assumes that Malaysia will ensure implementation of the rights enshrined in the above articles and will strive to bring its relevant national legislation into conformity with the obligations imposed by the Convention. This declaration shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Malaysia.

Consequently, the modification in question is not accepted, the Government of France having objected thereto.

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservations made by Lebanon upon accession

[Original: English]
[15 May 1998]

With regard to the reservations regarding article 9, paragraph 2, and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g) made by Lebanon upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Kuwait.]

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservations made by Algeria upon accession

[Original: English]
[1 July 1997]

With regard to the reservations made by Algeria upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Malaysia.]

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservations made by Pakistan upon accession

[Original: English]
[30 May 1997]

With regard to the declaration made by Pakistan upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Malaysia.]

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservations made by Singapore upon accession

[Original: English]
[20 November 1996]

With regard to the reservations made by Singapore upon accession, the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands ... considers:

That the reservation under (1) is incompatible with the purpose of the Convention;

That the reservation under (2) suggests a distinction between migrating men and migrating women, and by that is an implicit reservation regarding article 9 of the Convention, which is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention;

That the reservation under (3), particularly the last part — "and considers that legislation in respect of article 11 is unnecessary for the minority of women who do not fall within the ambit of Singapore's employment legislation" — is a reservation which seeks to limit the responsibilities of the reserving State under the Convention by invoking the general principles of its national law, and in this particular case to exclude the application of the said article for a specific category of women, and therefore may raise doubts as to the commitment of this State to the object and purpose of the Convention and, moreover, contribute to undermining the basis of international treaty law. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties should be respected, as to object and purpose, by all parties.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore objects to the above-mentioned reservations.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Singapore and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Objection by the Netherlands to reservations made by Fiji upon accession and by Lesotho upon ratification

[Original: English]
[1 November 1996]

With regard to the reservations made by Fiji upon accession and by Lesotho upon ratification:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Malaysia.]

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservations made by Malaysia upon accession

[Original: English]
[15 October 1996]

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers, with regard to the reservations made by Malaysia relating to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, [...] that such reservations, which seek to limit the responsibilities of the reserving State under the Convention by invoking the general principles of national law and the Constitution, may raise doubts as to the commitment of this State to the object and purpose of the Convention and, moreover, contribute to undermining the basis of international treaty law. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties should be respected, as to object and purpose, by all parties.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands further considers that the reservations made by Malaysia regarding article 2 (f), article 5 (a), article 9 and article 16 of the Convention are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore objects to the above-mentioned reservations. This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Malaysia.

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservations made by Kuwait upon accession

[Original: English]
[16 January 1996]

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers the reservations made by Kuwait incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore objects to the above-mentioned reservations. These objections shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Kuwait and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Objection by the Netherlands to the reservations made by Bangladesh, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Thailand and Turkey upon accession and Brazil, Egypt, India, Jamaica, the Republic of Korea and Tunisia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[14 July 1994]

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the declarations made by India regarding article 5, subparagraph (a), and article 16, paragraph 1, of the Convention are reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the declaration made by India regarding article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention is a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the declaration made by Morocco expressing the readiness of Morocco to apply the provisions of article 2 provided that they do not conflict with the provisions of the Islamic Shariah, is a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the declaration made by Morocco regarding article 15, paragraph 4, of the Convention is a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the declaration made by Morocco regarding article 9, paragraph 2, and article 16 of the Convention are reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has examined the reservations made by Maldives, by which "the Government of the Republic of Maldives will comply with the provisions of the Convention, except those which the Government may consider contradictory to the principles of the Islamic Shariah, upon which the laws and traditions of the Maldives are founded", and the Republic of Maldives declares that it "does not see itself bound by any provisions of the Convention which obliges it to change its Constitution and laws in any manner". The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers the said reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands objects to the above-mentioned declarations and reservations.

These objections shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention as between India, Maldives, Morocco and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

[Original: English]
[23 July 1990]

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the reservations made by Bangladesh regarding article 2, article 13, subparagraph (a), and article 16, paragraph 1 (c) and (f), by Egypt regarding article 2, article 9 and article 16, by Brazil regarding article 15, paragraph 4, and

article 16, paragraph 1 (a), (c), (g) and (h), by Iraq regarding article 2, subparagraphs (f) and (g), article 9 and article 16, by Mauritius regarding article 11, paragraph 1 (b) and (d), and article 16, paragraph 1 (g), by Jamaica regarding article 9, paragraph 2, by the Republic of Korea regarding article 9 and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g), by Thailand regarding article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraph 3, and article 16, by Tunisia regarding article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraph 4, and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h), by Turkey regarding article 15, paragraphs 2 and 4, and article 16, paragraphs 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g), by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon accession, and the first paragraph of the reservations made by Malawi upon accession, are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2).

These objections shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention as between Bangladesh, Egypt, Brazil, Iraq, Mauritius, Jamaica, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Objection by Norway to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession

[Original: English]
[20 May 2002]

With regard to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession:

The Government of Norway has examined the contents of the reservation made by the Government of Mauritania upon accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The reservation consists of a general reference to national law and does not clearly define to what extent Mauritania has accepted the obligations under the Convention. The Government of Norway therefore objects to the reservation, as it is contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention and thus impermissible according to article 28 of the Convention.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force in its entirety of the Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and Mauritania. The Convention thus becomes operative between Norway and Mauritania without Mauritania benefiting from the reservation.

Objection by Norway to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[20 February 2002]

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of Norway has examined the contents of the reservation made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Article 2 is the Convention's core provision outlining the measures that the State Party is required to take in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention. Without adopting measures to modify or abolish existing discriminatory laws, regulations, customs and practices as prescribed by paragraph (f) of article 2, none of the Convention's substantive provisions can be successfully implemented. The reservation to paragraph (f) of article 2 is thus incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

Further, as article 9, paragraph 2, aims at eliminating discrimination against women, the reservation to this provision is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Government of Norway therefore objects to the parts of the reservation that concern paragraph (f) of article 2 and paragraph 2 of article 9, as they are impermissible according to article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force in its entirety of the Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Convention thus becomes operative between the Kingdom of Norway and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea without the Democratic People's Republic of Korea benefiting from the said parts of the reservation.

Objection by Norway to the reservation made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[9 October 2001]

With regard to the reservation made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of Norway has examined the contents of the reservation made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia upon ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

According to paragraph 1 of the reservation, the norms of Islamic law shall prevail in the event of conflict with the provisions of the Convention. It is the position of the Government of Norway that, due to its unlimited scope and undefined character, this part of the reservation is contrary to object and purpose of the Convention.

Further, the reservation to article 9, paragraph 2, concerns one of the core provisions of the Convention, and which aims at eliminating discrimination against women. The reservation is thus incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

For these reasons, the Government of Norway objects to paragraph 1 and the first part of paragraph 2 of the reservation made by Saudi Arabia, as they are impermissible according to article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

This objection does not preclude the entry into force in its entirety of the Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Convention thus becomes operative between Norway and Saudi Arabia without Saudi Arabia benefiting from the said parts of the reservation.

Objection by Norway to the reservations made by the Niger upon accession

[Original: English]
[1 November 2000]

With regard to the reservations made by the Niger upon accession:

The reservation concerns fundamental provisions of the Convention. Article 2 is the core provision as it outlines the measures which the State Party is required to take in order to implement the Convention. The Convention can only be successfully implemented when all measures prescribed by article 2 are taken. Most importantly, it is unclear how the Convention's substantive provisions will be implemented without adopting measures to modify or abolish existing discriminatory laws, regulations, customs and practices.

The Government of Norway considers the other elements of the reservation, with exception of the reservation made to article 29, as incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. The relevant provisions cover fundamental rights of women or they outline key elements in order to abolish discrimination against women. Women will not have the opportunity to live on equal footing with men if these provisions are not implemented.

Further, it is the Norwegian Government's position that article 5, paragraph (b), covers both public and private family education.

The Government of Norway therefore objects to the reservations made by the Government of the Niger to the following provisions: article 2, paragraphs (d) and (f); article 5, paragraph (a); article 15, paragraph 4; and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (e) and (g).

This objection does not preclude the entry into force in its entirety of the Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and the Niger. The Convention thus becomes operative between Norway and the Niger without the Niger benefiting from these reservations.

Objection by Norway to the reservations made by Algeria, Malaysia and Singapore upon accession

[Original: English]
[3 July 1997]

With regard to the reservations made by Algeria upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Malaysia.]

[Original: English]
[21 November 1996]

With regard to the reservations made by Singapore upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Maldives.]

[Original: English]
[16 October 1996]

The Government of Norway has examined the contents of the reservations made by Malaysia upon accession, ...

In the view of the Government of Norway, a statement by which a State party purports to limit its responsibilities under the Convention by invoking general principles of internal or religious law may create doubts about the commitment of the reserving State to the object and purpose of the Convention and, moreover, contribute to undermining the basis of international treaty law. Under well-established international treaty law, a State is not permitted to invoke internal law as justification for its failure to perform its treaty obligations. Further, the Government of Norway considers that reservation made by the Government of Malaysia with respect to certain specific provisions of the Convention is so extensive as to be contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention, and thus not permitted under article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention. For these reasons, the Government of Norway objects to the reservations made by the Government of Malaysia.

The Government of Norway does not consider this objection to preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and Malaysia.

Objection by Norway to the declaration made by Pakistan upon accession

[Original: English]
[6 June 1997]

With regard to the declarations made by Pakistan upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Maldives.]

Objection by Norway to the reservations made by Lesotho upon accession

[Original: English]
[30 October 1996]

With regard to the reservations made by Lesotho upon ratification:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Maldives.]

Objections by Norway to the reservations made by Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Maldives upon accession

[Original: English]
[2 May 1995]

With regard to the reservations made by Kuwait upon accession:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Maldives.]

[Original: English]
[25 October 1994]

With regard to the reservations made by Maldives upon accession:

In the view of the Government of Norway, a reservation by which a State party limits its responsibilities under the Convention by invoking general principles of internal law may create doubts about the commitments of the reserving State to the object and purpose of the Convention and, moreover, contribute to undermine the basis of international treaty law. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties also are respected, as to their object and purpose, by all parties. Furthermore, under well-established international treaty law, a State is not permitted to invoke internal law as justification for its failure to perform its treaty obligations. For these reasons, the Government of Norway objects to the reservations of Maldives.

The Government of Norway does not consider this objection to constitute an obstacle to the entry into force of the above-stated Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Maldives.

[Original: English]
[16 July 1990]

The Government of Norway has examined the contents of the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, by which the accession "is subject to the general reservation that such accession cannot conflict with the laws on personal status derived from the Islamic Shariah". The Norwegian Government has come to the conclusion that this reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2). The Government of Norway objects to the reservation.

The Norwegian Government will stress that, by acceding to the Convention, a State commits itself to adopt the measures required for the elimination of discrimination, in all forms and manifestations, against women. A reservation by which a State party limits its responsibilities under the Convention by invoking religious law (Shariah), which is subject to interpretation, modification and selective application in different States adhering to Islamic principles, may create doubts about the commitments of the reserving State to the object and purpose of the Convention. It may also undermine the basis of international treaty law. All States have a common interest in securing that all parties respect the treaties to which they have chosen to become parties.

Objection by Portugal to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[4 March 2002]

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of the Portuguese Republic has examined the reservation made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York, 18 December 1979) on 27 February 2001 in respect of articles 2 (f) and 9.2 of the Convention.

Recalling that, according to paragraph 2 of article 28 of the Convention, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted, the Government of the Portuguese Republic objects to the said reservations.

In fact, the reservation relating to article 2 (f) refers to a basic aspect of the Convention, namely, the undertaking to enact legislation to abolish all existing legal practices discriminating against women.

Regarding the reservation to article 9.2, the Government of the Portuguese Republic is of the view that the said reservation intends to exclude one of the specific obligations of non-discrimination, which is the essence of the Convention.

It is in the common interests of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become party are respected by all parties and that the States are prepared to take all appropriate measures, including legislation to comply with their obligations.

Therefore, the Government of the Portuguese Republic objects to the aforementioned reservations made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Portuguese Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Objection by Portugal to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession

[Original: English]
[4 March 2002]

With regard to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession:

The Government of the Portuguese Republic has examined the reservation made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York, 18 December 1979) on 10 May 2001 in respect of any interpretation of the provisions of the Convention that it is incompatible with the precept of Islamic law and its Constitution.

The Government of the Portuguese Republic is of the view that the said reservation refers in a general manner to national law, failing to specify clearly its content and, therefore, leaving the other State parties

with doubts as to the real extent of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's commitment to the Convention.

Furthermore it also considers the reservation made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania incompatible with the objective and purpose of the aforesaid Convention, and it seriously limits or even excludes its application on a vaguely defined basis, such as the global reference to the Islamic law.

The Government of the Portuguese Republic therefore objects to the reservation made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Portuguese Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Objection by Portugal to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[18 July 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of the Portuguese Republic has examined the reservation made on 7 September by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York, 18 December 1979), regarding any interpretation of the provisions of the Convention that is incompatible with the precept of Islamic law and the Islamic religion. It has also examined the reservation to article 9.2 of the Convention.

The Government of the Portuguese Republic is of the view that the first reservation refers in general terms to the Islamic law, failing to specify clearly its content and, therefore, leaving the other State parties with doubts as to the real extent of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's commitment to the Convention.

Furthermore, it also considers the reservation made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia incompatible with the objective and purpose of the aforesaid Convention, for it refers to the whole of the Convention, and it seriously limits or even excludes its application on a vaguely defined basis, such as the global reference to the Islamic law.

Regarding the reservation to article 9.2, the Government of the Portuguese Republic is of the view that the said reservation intends to exclude one of the obligations of non-discrimination, which is the essence of the Convention.

Therefore, the Government of the Portuguese Republic objects to the aforementioned reservations made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Portuguese Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Objection by Portugal to the reservation made by Maldives upon accession

[Original: English]
[26 October 1994]

The Government of Portugal considers that the reservations formulated by Maldives are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and are inadmissible under article 19 (c) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

Furthermore, the Government of Portugal considers that these reservations cannot alter or modify in any respect the obligations arising from the Convention for any State party thereto.

Objection by Spain to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[5 July 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain has examined the reservations made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to articles 2 (f) and 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, on 27 February 2001 in acceding to the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain considers those reservations to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, since their intent is to exempt the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from committing itself to two essential elements of the Convention, one being the general requirement to take measures, including legislation, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (art. 2 (f)) and the other being the requirement to address a specific form of discrimination with respect to the nationality of children (art. 9 (2)).

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain recalls that, under article 28 (2) of the Convention, reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention are not permitted.

Accordingly, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain objects to the above-mentioned reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection does not prevent the Convention's entry into force between the Kingdom of Spain and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Objection by Spain to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[22 February 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain has examined the reservation made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on 7 September 2000, regarding any interpretation of the Convention that may be incompatible with the norms of Islamic law and regarding article 9, paragraph 2.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain considers that the general reference to Islamic law, without specifying its content, creates doubts among the other States parties about the extent to which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia commits itself to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain is of the view that such a reservation by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, since it refers to the Convention as a whole and seriously restricts or even excludes its application on a basis as ill-defined as the general reference to Islamic law.

Furthermore, the reservation to article 9, paragraph 2, aims at excluding one of the obligations concerning non-discrimination, which is the ultimate goal of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of Spain recalls that, according to article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention, reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

Therefore, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain objects to the said reservations by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Spain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Objection by Sweden to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession

[Original: English]
[21 January 2002]

With regard to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession:

The Government of Sweden has examined the reservation made by Mauritania upon acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Government of Sweden notes that the Convention is being made subject to a general reservation of unlimited scope referring to the contents of Islamic Shariah and to existing legislation in Mauritania.

The Government of Sweden is of the view that this reservation which does not clearly specify the provisions of the Convention to which it applies, and the extent of the derogation therefrom, raises serious doubts as to the commitment of Mauritania to the object and purpose of the Convention. The Government of Sweden would like to recall that, according to

customary international law as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of a treaty shall not be permitted.

It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties are respected as to their object and purpose, by all parties, and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties.

The Government of Sweden therefore objects to the aforesaid reservation made by the Government of Mauritania to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Mauritania and Sweden. The Convention enters into force in its entirety between the two States, without Mauritania benefiting from its reservation.

Objection by Sweden to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[25 July 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of Sweden has examined the reservation made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the time of its accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, regarding articles 2 (f) and 9 (2) of the Convention.

The reservation in question, if put into practice, would inevitably result in discrimination against women on the basis of sex, which is contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention. It should be borne in mind that the principles of the equal rights of men and women and of non-discrimination on the basis of sex are set forth in the Charter of the United Nations as one of the purposes of the organization, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

According to article 28 (2) of the Convention, reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties are respected as to their object and purpose, by all parties, and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties. According to customary international law as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

The Government of Sweden therefore objects to the aforesaid reservation made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and considers the reservation null and void. The Convention enters into force in its entirety between the two States, without the Democratic People's Republic of Korea benefiting from its reservation.

Objection by Sweden to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[30 March 2001]

With regard to the reservations made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of Sweden has examined the reservation made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the time of its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as to any interpretation of the provisions of the Convention that is incompatible with the norms of Islamic law.

The Government of Sweden is of the view that this general reservation, which does not clearly specify the provisions of the Convention to which it applies and the extent of the derogation therefrom, raises doubts as to the commitment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the object and purpose of the Convention.

It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have been chosen to become parties are respected as to their object and purpose, and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties. According to customary law as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted. The

Government of Sweden therefore objects to the aforesaid general reservation made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Sweden, without the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia benefiting from the said reservation.

Objection by Sweden to the reservations made by Kuwait upon accession

[Original: English]
[17 January 1996]

The Government of Sweden has examined the content of the following reservations made by the Government of Kuwait upon accession to the said Convention.

1. Article 7 (a)

The Government of Kuwait enters a reservation regarding article 7 (a), inasmuch as the provision contained in that paragraph conflicts with the Kuwait Electoral Act, under which the right to be eligible for election and to vote is restricted to males.

2. Article 9, paragraph 2

The Government of Kuwait reserves its right not to implement the provision contained in article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, inasmuch as it runs counter to the Kuwait Nationality Act, which stipulates that a child's nationality shall be determined by that of his father.

3. Article 16, paragraph (f)

The Government of the State of Kuwait declares that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions contained in article 16, paragraph 1 (f) inasmuch as it conflicts with the provision of the Islamic Shariah, Islam being the official religion of the State.

The Swedish Government considers that the reservations made by Kuwait are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. According to article 28, paragraph 2, reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

By acceding to the Convention, a State commits itself to adopt the measures required for the elimination of discrimination, in all its forms and manifestations, against women. If the reservations made by Kuwait were to apply, they would inevitably have the effect of discrimination against women on grounds of sex.

In this context the Swedish Government wishes to make the observation that reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of a treaty not only cast doubts on the commitments of the reserving State, but moreover contribute to undermining the basis of international law. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties also are respected, as to object and purpose, by other parties and the States are prepared to undertake legislative changes necessary to comply with such treaties.

In view of the above the Government of Sweden objects to the above-mentioned reservations made by the Government of Kuwait to the Convention.

Objection by Sweden to the reservations made by Bangladesh, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lebanon, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, the Niger and Thailand upon accession and Brazil, Egypt, Jamaica, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Tunisia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[17 March 1986]

The Government of Sweden considers that [the following reservations] are incompatible with the object and purposes of the Convention (art. 28, para. 2), and therefore objects to them:

- Thailand regarding article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraph 3, and article 16;
- Tunisia regarding article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraph 4, and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h);
- Bangladesh regarding article 2, article 13, subparagraph (a), and article 16, paragraph 1 (c) and (f);
- Brazil regarding article 15, paragraph 4, and article 16, paragraph 1 (a), (c), (g) and (h).

Indeed the reservations in question, if put into practice, would inevitably result in discrimination against women on the basis of sex, which is contrary to everything the Convention stands for. It should also be borne in mind that the principles of equal rights of men and women and of non-discrimination on the basis of sex are set forth in the Charter of the United Nations as one of its purposes, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and in various multilateral instruments, to which Thailand, Tunisia and Bangladesh are parties.

The Government of Sweden furthermore notes that, as a matter of principle, the same objection could be made to the reservations made by:

- Egypt regarding article 2, article 9, paragraph 2, and article 16;
- Mauritius regarding article 11, paragraph 1 (b) and (d), and article 16, paragraph 1 (g);
- Jamaica regarding article 9, paragraph 2;
- Republic of Korea regarding article 9 and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g);
- New Zealand in respect of the Cook Islands regarding article 2, subparagraph (f), and article 5, subparagraph (a).

In this context, the Government of Sweden wishes to take this opportunity to make the observation that the reason why reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of a treaty are not acceptable is precisely that otherwise they would render a basic international obligation of a contractual nature meaningless. Incompatible reservations, made in all forms of discrimination against women, do not only cast doubts on the commitments of the reserving States to the objects and purpose of this Convention, but, moreover, contribute to undermining the basis of international contractual law. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties also are respected, as to object and purpose, by other parties.

[Subsequently, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Sweden, on the dates indicated below, objections of the same nature as the ones above with regard to the reservations made by the following States:]

- *12 March 1987*: With regard to the reservations made by Iraq to article 2, subparagraphs (f) and (g), article 9, paragraph 1, and article 16;
- *15 April 1988*: With regard to the first reservations made by Malawi;
- *25 May 1990*: With regard to the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
- *5 February 1993*: With regard to the reservations made by Jordan in respect of article 9, paragraph 2, article 15, paragraph 4, the wording on article 16, paragraphs 1 (c), (d) and (g);
- *26 October 1994*: With regard to the reservations made by Maldives upon accession. The Government of Sweden objects to these reservations and considers that they constitute an obstacle to the entry into force of the Convention between Sweden and the Republic of Maldives;
- *27 January 1998*: With regard to the reservations made by Lebanon upon accession;
- *27 April 2000*: With regard to the reservations to articles 2, 5, 15 and 16 made by Niger upon accession.

Objection by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession

[Original: English]
[5 March 2002]

With regard to the reservations made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea upon accession:

The Government of the United Kingdom has examined the reservation made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 27 February in respect of the Convention.

Paragraph (f) of article 2 requires States Parties to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women. The Government of the United Kingdom notes that a reservation which excludes obligations of such a general nature does not clearly define for the other States Parties to the Convention the extent to which the reserving State has accepted the obligations of the

Convention. The Government of the United Kingdom therefore objects to the reservation made by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Objection by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession

[Original: English]
[28 November 2001]

With regard to the reservation made by Mauritania upon accession:

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have examined the reservation made by the Government of Mauritania in respect of the Convention.

The Government of the United Kingdom note that a reservation to a Convention which consists of a general reference to national law without specifying its contents does not clearly define for the other States Parties to the Convention the extent to which the reserving State has accepted the obligations of the Convention. The Government of the United Kingdom therefore object to the reservation made by the Government of Mauritania.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Mauritania.

Objection by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the reservation made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification

[Original: English]
[6 September 2001]

With regard to the reservation made by Saudi Arabia upon ratification:

The Government of the United Kingdom note that a reservation which consists of a general reference to national law without specifying its contents does not clearly define for other States Parties to the Convention the extent to which the reserving State has accepted the obligations of the Convention. The Government of the United Kingdom therefore object to the aforesaid reservation made by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

D. Notifications of withdrawal of certain reservations

Australia

On 30 August 2000, the Government of Australia notified the Secretary-General that, having considered the reservations made upon ratification, it had decided to withdraw the part of the reservations which stated:

> "The Government of Australia advises that it does not accept the application of the Convention insofar as it would require alteration of Defence Force policy which excludes women from combat and combat-related duties. The Government of Australia is reviewing this policy so as to more closely define 'combat' and 'combat-related duties'."

Austria

On 11 September 2000, the Government of Austria informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the reservation to article 7 (b) of the Convention made upon ratification.

Bangladesh

On 23 July 1997, the Government of Bangladesh notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw its reservations with regard to articles 13 (a) and 16, paragraph 1 (f), of the Convention, which it had made upon ratification of the Convention.

Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine

In communications received on 8 March and 19 and 20 April 1989, respectively, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Socialist Republic notified the Secretary-General that they had decided to withdraw the reservations made upon their ratification relating to article 29, paragraph 1. The reservations were identical in essence, mutatis mutandis, to the reservation made by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Belgium

In a communication received on 14 September 1998, the Government of Belgium informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation with respect to article 7 made upon ratification.

Brazil

On 20 December 1994, the Government of Brazil notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification to article 15, paragraph 4, and to article 16, paragraph 1 (a), (c), (g) and (h), of the Convention.

Bulgaria

On 24 June 1992, the Government of Bulgaria notified the Secretary-General its decision to withdraw the reservation to article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention, made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification.

Canada

On 28 May 1992, the Government of Canada notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw the declaration relating to article 11, paragraph 1 (d), of the Convention made upon ratification.

Cyprus

On 28 June 2000, the Government of Cyprus informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation to article 9 (2) made upon accession.

Czech Republic

The Government of Czechoslovakia signed and ratified the Convention on 17 July 1980 and 16 February 1982, respectively, with a reservation. Subsequently, on 26 April 1991, the Government of Czechoslovakia notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw the reservation made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification.

Fiji

On 24 January 2000, the Government of Fiji notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservations with respect to articles 5 (a) and 9 of the Convention made upon accession.

France

In a notification received on 26 March 1984, the Government of France informed the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw the reservation to article 7 of the Convention made upon ratification. The notification specified that the withdrawal was effected because Organic Law No. 83-1096 of 20 December 1983 had abrogated article LO 128 of the electoral code relating to temporary disqualifications of persons who have obtained French nationality.

Subsequently, in a notification received on 21 July 1986, the Government of France informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation relating to article 15, paragraphs 2 and 3, and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d) and (h) of the Convention, made upon ratification. The notification specified that the withdrawal was effected because the existing discriminatory provisions against women in the rules governing property rights arising out of a matrimonial relationship and those concerning the legal administration of the property of children had been abrogated by Act No. 85-1372 of 23 December 1985 concerning equality of spouses in respect of property

rights arising out of a matrimonial relationship and equality of parents in respect of the property of minor children, which entered into force on 1 July 1986.

Germany

On 10 December 2001, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation to article 7 (b) made upon ratification.

Hungary

In a communication received on 8 December 1989, the Government of Hungary notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the reservation in respect of article 29, paragraph 1, made upon ratification.

Ireland

On 19 December 1986, the Government of Ireland notified the Secretary-General that, following the enactment of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1986, and the Domicile and Recognition of Foreign Divorces Act 1986, it had decided to withdraw certain reservations which had been made upon accession and relating to articles 9 (1) and 15 (4) of the Convention. Following the coming into force of the Social Welfare (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1985, it had also decided to withdraw the reservation contained in the concluding words in the text of Ireland's reservation to articles (11) (1) and 13 (a), that is: "and pending the coming into force of the Social Welfare (No. 2) Act 1985, to apply special conditions to the entitlement of married women to certain social security schemes".

Further, on 24 March 2000, the Government of Ireland notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation made to article 15 (3) made upon accession.

Jamaica

On 8 September 1995, the Government of Jamaica notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw its reservation with regard to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, which it had made upon ratification.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

On 5 July 1995, the Government of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya notified the Secretary-General of the "new formulation of its reservation to the Convention, which replaces the formulation contained in the instrument of accession" which read as follows:

> "[Accession] is subject to the general reservation that such accession cannot conflict with the laws on personal status delivered from Islamic Shariah."

Liechtenstein

On 3 October 1996, the Government of Liechtenstein notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the reservation concerning article 9, paragraph 2, made upon accession, whereby: "The Principality of Liechtenstein reserves the right to apply the Liechtenstein legislation according to which Liechtenstein nationality is granted under certain conditions."

Malawi

On 24 October 1991, the Government of Malawi notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw the following reservations made upon accession:

> "Owing to the deep-rooted nature of some traditional customs and practices of Malawians, the Government of the Republic of Malawi shall not, for the time being, consider itself bound by such of the provisions of the Convention as required immediate eradication of such traditional customs and practices.
>
> "While the Government of the Republic of Malawi accepts the principles of article 29, paragraph 2, of the Convention this acceptance should nonetheless be read in conjunction with [its] declaration of 12 December 1966, concerning the recognition, by the Government of the Republic of Malawi, as compulsory the

jurisdiction of the international justice, under article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court."

Malaysia

On 6 February 1998, the Government of Malaysia withdrew its reservation in respect of articles 2 (f), 9 (1), 16 (b), 16 (d), 16 (e) and 16 (h).

On 6 February 1998, the Government of Malaysia notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to modify its reservation made upon accession as follows:

With respect to article 5 (a) of the Convention, the Government of Malaysia declares that the provision is subject to Shariah law on the division of inherited property.

With respect to article 7 (b) of the Convention, the Government of Malaysia declares that the application of said article 7 (b) shall not affect appointment to certain public offices like the Mufti Shariah Court Judges, and the Imam, which is in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic Shariah law.

With respect to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Government of Malaysia declares that under the Shariah law and the laws of Malaysia the age limit for marriage for women is sixteen and for men is eighteen.

In keeping with the depository practice followed in similar cases, the Secretary-General proposed to receive the modification in question for deposit in the absence of any objection on the part of any contracting State either to the deposit itself or to the procedure envisaged, within a period of 90 days from the date of its notification (21 April 1998), that is to say, on 20 July 1998.

Maldives

On 29 January 1999, the Government of Maldives notified the Secretary-General of a modification of its reservation made upon accession. In keeping with the depository practices followed in similar cases, the Secretary-General proposed to receive the modification in question for deposit in the absence of any objection on the part of any of the contracting States, either to the deposit itself or to the procedure envisaged, within a period of 90 days from the date of its notification (i.e., 25 March 1999). No objection having been received, the modification was accepted for deposit upon the expiration of the 90 days period, that is to say on 23 June 1999. The text of the reservations made upon accession read as follows:

"The Government of the Republic of Maldives will comply with the provisions of the Convention, except those which the Government may consider contradictory to the principles of the Islamic Shariah upon which the laws and traditions of Maldives is founded.

"Furthermore, the Republic of Maldives does not see itself bound by any provisions of the Convention which obliges it to change its Constitution and laws in any manner."

Mauritius

In a communication received on 5 May 1998, the Government of Mauritius informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservations, made upon accession, with regard to subparagraphs (b) and (d) of paragraph 1 of article 11 and subparagraph (g) of paragraph 1 of article 16.

Mongolia

In a communication received on 19 July 1990, the Government of Mongolia notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw the reservation made upon ratification, with respect to article 29, paragraph 1.

New Zealand

On 13 January 1989, the Secretary-General received from the Government of New Zealand a communication notifying him that, after consultation with the Government of the Cook Islands and the Government of Niue, it had denounced the Convention concerning the employment of women on underground work in mines of all kinds (ILO Convention No. 45) on 23 June 1987 and that in accordance with article 28, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, it had

withdrawn the reservation made upon ratification, which reads as follows:

> "The Government of New Zealand, the Government of the Cook Islands and the Government of Niue reserve the right, to the extent the Convention is inconsistent with the provisions of the Convention concerning the employment of women on underground work in mines of all kinds (ILO Convention No. 45) which was ratified by the Government of New Zealand on 29 March 1938, to apply the provisions of the latter."

Poland

On 16 October 1997, the Government of Poland notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation, made upon ratification, with regard to article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Republic of Korea

On 15 March and 24 August 1999, the Government of the Republic of Korea notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw, with effect as from those dates, the reservations made upon ratification to the extent that they apply to subparagraphs (c), (d) and (f) of paragraph 1 of article 16 and to article 9, respectively.

Romania

On 2 April 1997, the Government of Romania notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation made with regard to article 29 of the Convention.

Thailand

On 25 January 1991, the Government of Thailand notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw the reservations made upon accession to the extent that they apply to article 11, paragraph 1 (b), and article 15, paragraph 3.

Subsequently, on 26 October 1992, the Government of Thailand notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw one of the reservations made upon accession to the Convention, i.e., that relating to article 9, paragraph 2, which reservation read as follows:

> "2. With regard to article 9, paragraph 2, [...] the Royal Thai Government considers that the application of the said provisions shall be subject to the limits and criteria established by national law, regulations and practices."

Subsequently, on 1 August 1996, the Government of Thailand notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw, as from the same date, the following reservation, made upon accession:

> "1. In all matters which concern national security, maintenance of public order and service or employment in the military or paramilitary forces, the Royal Thai Government reserves its right to apply the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular articles 7 and 10, only within the limits established by national laws, regulations and practices."

Turkey

On 20 September 1999, the Government of the Republic of Turkey notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservations made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification of the Convention with regard to article 15, paragraphs 2 and 4, and article 16, paragraphs 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g).

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

On 4 January 1995, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the following declaration and reservations, made upon ratification:

> "... The United Kingdom of Great Britain declares that, in the event of a conflict between obligations under the present Convention and its obligations under the Convention concerning the employment of women on underground work in mines of all kinds (ILO Convention No. 45), the provisions of the last-mentioned Convention shall prevail.

"Article 13

"The United Kingdom of Great Britain reserves the right, notwithstanding the obligations undertaken in article 13, or any other relevant article of the Convention, to continue to apply the income tax and capital gains tax legislation which:

"(i) Deems for income tax purposes the income of a married woman living with her husband in a year, or part of a year, of assessment to be her husband's income and not to be her income (subject to the right of the husband and the wife to elect jointly that the wife's earned income shall be charged to income tax as if she were a single woman with no other income); and

"(ii) Requires tax in respect of such income and of chargeable gains accruing to such a married woman to be assessed on her husband (subject to the right of either of them to apply for separate assessment) and consequently (if no such application is made) restricts to her husband the right to appeal against any such assessment and to be heard or to be represented at the hearing of any such appeal; and

"(iii) Entitles a man who has his wife living with him, or whose wife is wholly maintained by him, during the year of assessment to a deduction from his total income of an amount larger than that to which an individual in any other case is entitled and entitles an individual whose total income includes any earned income of his wife to have that deduction increased by the amount of that earned income or by an amount specified in the legislation whichever is the less."

Further, on 22 March 1996, the Government of the United Kingdom notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the following reservations and declarations made upon ratification:

"... The United Kingdom reserves the right to regard the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, the Employment Act 1980, the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976, the Industrial Relations (No. 2) (Northern Ireland) Order 1976, the Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1982, the Equal Pay Act 1970 (as amended), including the exceptions and exemptions contained in any of these acts and orders, as constituting appropriate measures for the practical realisation of the objectives of the Convention in the social economic circumstances of the United Kingdom, and to continue to apply these provisions accordingly; this reservation will apply equally to any future legislation which may modify or replace the above acts and orders on the understanding that the terms of such legislation will be compatible with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

"Article 1

"With reference to the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and other applicable legislation, the United Kingdom's acceptance of article 1 is subject to the reservation that the phrase 'irrespective of their marital status' shall not be taken to render discriminatory any difference of treatment accorded to single persons as against married persons, so long as there is equality of treatment as between married men and married women and as between single men and single women.

"Article 2

"In the light of the substantial progress already achieved in the United Kingdom in promoting the progressive elimination of discrimination against women, the United Kingdom reserves the right, without prejudice to the other reservations made by the United Kingdom, to give effect to paragraphs (f) and (g) by keeping under review such of its laws and regulations as may still embody significant differences in treatment between men and women with a view to making changes to those laws and regulations when to do so would be compatible with essential and overriding considerations of economic policy. In relation to forms of discrimination more precisely prohibited by other provisions of the Convention, the obligation under this article must (in the case of the United Kingdom) be read in conjunction with the other

reservations and declarations made in respect of those provisions including the declarations and reservations of the United Kingdom contained in paragraphs (a)-(d) above.

"With regard to paragraphs (f) and (g) of this article the United Kingdom reserves the right to continue to apply its law relating to sexual offences and prostitution; this reservation will apply equally to any future law which may modify or replace it.

"Article 9

"The United Kingdom reserves the right to take such steps as may be necessary to comply with its obligations under article 2 of the First Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed at Paris on 20 March 1952 and its obligations under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights opened for signature at New York on 19 December 1966, to the extent that the said provisions preserve the freedom of parental choice in respect of the education of children; and reserves also the right not to take any measures which may conflict with its obligation under paragraph 4 of article 13 of the said Covenant not to interfere with the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions, subject to the observation of certain principles and standards.

"Moreover, the United Kingdom can only accept the obligations under paragraph (c) of article 10 within the limits of the statutory powers of central Government, in the light of the fact that the teaching curriculum, the provision of textbooks and teaching methods are reserved for local control and are not subject to central Government direction; moreover, the acceptance of the objective of encouraging coeducation is without prejudice to the right of the United Kingdom also to encourage other types of education.

"Article 11

"The United Kingdom interprets the 'right to work' referred to in paragraph 1 (a) as a reference to the 'right to work' as defined in other human rights instruments to which the United Kingdom is a party, notably article 6 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 19 December 1966.

"The United Kingdom interprets paragraph 1 of article 11, in the light of the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 4, as not precluding prohibitions, restrictions or conditions on the employment of women in certain areas, or on the work done by them, where this is considered necessary or desirable to protect the health and safety of women or the human foetus, including such prohibitions, restrictions or conditions imposed in consequence of other international obligations of the United Kingdom;

"...

"The United Kingdom reserves the right to apply the following provisions of United Kingdom legislation concerning the benefits specified:

"(a) Social security benefits for persons engaged in caring for a severely disabled person under section 37 of the Social Security Act 1975 and section 37 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975;

"...

"(c) Retirement pensions and survivors' benefits under the Social Security Acts of 1975 to 1982 and the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Acts 1975 to 1982;

"(d) Family income supplements under the Family Income Supplements Act 1970 and the Family Income Supplements Act (Northern Ireland) 1971.

"This reservation will apply equally to any future legislation which may modify or replace any of the provisions specified in subparagraphs (a) to (d) above, on the understanding that the terms of such legislation will be compatible with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

"...

"Article 15

"In relation to article 15, paragraph 2, the United Kingdom understands the term 'legal capacity' as referring merely to the existence of a separate and distinct legal personality.

"...

"Article 16

"...

"The United Kingdom's acceptance of paragraph 1 of article 16 shall not be treated as either limiting the freedom of a person to dispose of his property as he wishes or as giving a person a right to property the subject of such a limitation."

By the same communication, the Government of the United Kingdom also informed the Secretary-General for the avoidance of doubt, that the declarations and reservations entered in respect of the dependent territories on behalf of which the Convention was also ratified on 7 April 1986 continue to apply, but are under active review.

E. Acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention

As at 1 July 2002, 33 States parties had deposited with the Secretary-General instruments of the acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention (see annex III for a list of States parties that have accepted the amendment of art. 20, para. 1).

F. States parties that have signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention

The Optional Protocol was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999. In accordance with its article 15 (i), the Optional Protocol was opened for signature, ratification and accession at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 10 December 1999. As at 1 July 2002, 41 States parties had ratified and 74 States parties had signed the Optional Protocol (see annex IV).

G. Communications received by the Secretary-General

China and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

On 10 June 1997, the Governments of China and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland notified the Secretary-General of the following:

(1) The reservation made by the Government of the People's Republic of China to paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention will also apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

(2) The Government of the People's Republic of China understands, on behalf of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the main purpose of the Convention, in the light of the definition contained in article 1, to be the reduction, in accordance with its terms, of discrimination against women, and does not therefore regard the Convention as imposing any requirement upon the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to repeal or modify any of its existing laws, regulations, customs or practices which provides for women to be treated more favourably than men, whether temporary or in the longer term. Undertakings by the Government of the People's Republic of China on behalf of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under article 4, paragraph 1, and other provisions of the Convention are to be construed accordingly.

(3) The Government of the People's Republic of China reserves, for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the right to continue to apply relevant immigration legislation governing the entry into, stay in and departure from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as may be deemed necessary from time to time. Accordingly, acceptance of article 15, paragraph 4, and of other provisions of the Convention is subject to the provisions of any such legislation as regards persons not at the time having the right under the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to enter and remain in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

(4) The Government of the People's Republic of China understands, in the light of the definition in article 1, that none of its obligations under the Convention shall be treated as extending to the affairs

of religious denominations or orders in the Hong Kong Administrative Region.

(5) Laws applicable in the New Territories of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region which enable male indigenous villagers to exercise certain rights in respect of property and which provide for rent concessions in respect of land or property held by indigenous persons or their lawful successors through the male line will continue to [be] applied.

(6) The Government of the People's Republic of China reserves, for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the right to apply all its legislation and the rules of pension schemes affecting retirement pensions, survivors' benefit in relation to whether or not derived from a social security scheme.

This reservation will apply to any future legislation which may modify or replace such aforesaid legislation, or the rules of pension schemes, on the understanding that the terms of such legislation will be compatible with the Government of the People's Republic of China's obligations under the Convention in respect of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The Government of the People's Republic of China reserves the rights for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to apply any non-discriminatory requirement or a qualifying period of employment for the application of the provisions contained in article 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

(7) The Government of the People's Republic of China understands, on behalf of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the intention of article 15, paragraph 3, of the Convention to be that only those terms or elements of the contract or other private instrument which are discriminatory in the sense described are to be deemed null and void, but not necessarily the contract or instrument as a whole.

Denmark

[The Secretary-General received from the Government of Denmark the following communication dated 26 June 1998, with regard to the reservation made by Lebanon upon accession in respect to article 9, paragraph 2, and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g), inasmuch as the last paragraph deals with the right to choose a family name.]

The Government of Denmark is of the view that the reservations made by the Government of Lebanon raise doubt as to the commitment of Lebanon to the object and purpose of the Convention and would recall that, according to article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention shall not be permitted. For this reason, the Government of Denmark objects to the said reservations made by the Government of Lebanon.

The Government of Denmark recommends that the Government of Lebanon reconsider its reservations to the Convention.

The Secretary-General received from the Government of Denmark a communication dated 23 March 1998, identical in essence to the one made for Kuwait, with regard to reservations made by Pakistan upon ratification.

[The Secretary-General received from the Government of Denmark the following communication dated 12 February 1997, with regard to reservations made by Kuwait upon ratification.]

The Government of Denmark finds that the said reservations are covering central provisions of the Convention. Furthermore it is a general principle of international law that internal law may not be invoked as justification for failure to perform treaty obligations. The Government of Denmark finds that the reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and accordingly inadmissible and without effect under international law. Consequently, the Government of Denmark objects to these reservations.

It is the opinion of the Government of Denmark that no time limit applies to objections against reservations, which are inadmissible under international law.

The Convention remain in force in its entirety between Kuwait and Denmark.

The Government of Denmark recommends that the Government of Kuwait reconsider its reservation to the Convention.

[On the same date, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Denmark, communications, identical in essence, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Kuwait, with regard to reservations made by Lesotho upon ratification, and Malaysia, Maldives and Singapore upon accession.]

Finland

On 17 August 1999, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Finland the following communication:

The Government of Finland objected in 1994 to the reservations made by the Government of Maldives upon accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government of Finland has now examined the contents of the modified reservation made by the Government of the Republic of Maldives to the said Convention.

The Government of Finland welcomes with satisfaction that the Government of the Republic of Maldives has specified that the reservations made at the time of its accession to the Convention include elements which are objectionable. However, the reservations to article 7 (a) and 16 still include elements which are objectionable. The Government of Finland therefore wishes to declare that it assumes that the Government of the Republic of Maldives will ensure the implementation of the rights recognized in the Convention and will do its utmost to bring its national legislation into compliance with obligations under the Convention with a view to withdrawing the reservation. This declaration does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Maldives and Finland.

France

On 20 July 1998, the Secretary-General received from the Government of France the following communication:

The Government of France considers that the reservations made by Malaysia, as expressed in the practical withdrawal and modifications made by Malaysia on 6 February 1998, are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. The Government of France therefore objects to the [reservations].

This objection shall not otherwise affect the entry into force of the Convention between France and Malaysia.

Germany

On 16 August 1999, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Germany the following communication:

The modification does not constitute a withdrawal or a partial withdrawal of the origin reservations to the Convention by the Republic of Maldives. Instead the modification constitutes a new reservation to article 7 (a) (right of women to vote in all elections) and article 16 (elimination of discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations) of the Convention extending and reinforcing the original reservations.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany notes that reservations to treaties can only be made by a State when signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to a treaty (article 19 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). After a State has bound itself to a treaty under international law it can no longer submit new reservations or extend or add to old reservations. It is also possible to totally or partially withdraw original reservations, something unfortunately not done by the Government of the Republic of Maldives with its modification.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany objects to the modification of the reservations.

Ireland

On 13 June 2002, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Ireland the following communication:

The Government of Ireland has examined the reservation made by Mauritania upon its accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Government of Ireland is of the view that a reservation which consists of a general reference to religious law and to the Constitution of the reserving State and which does not clearly specify the provisions of the Convention to which it applies and the extent of the derogation therefrom, may cast doubts on the commitment of the reserving State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. The Government of Ireland is furthermore of the view that such a general

reservation may undermine the basis of international treaty law.

The Government of Ireland recalls that article 28, paragraph 2 of the Convention provides that a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

The Government of Ireland therefore objects to the reservation made by Mauritania to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Ireland and Mauritania.

Israel

On 12 December 1986, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Israel the following objection:

> "... In the view of the Government of the State of Israel, such declaration which is explicitly of a political character is incompatible with the purposes and objectives of the Convention and cannot in any way affect whatever obligations are binding upon Iraq under general international law or under particular Conventions.
>
> "The Government of the State of Israel will, insofar as concerns the substance of the matter, adopt towards Iraq an attitude of complete reciprocity."

New Zealand

The instrument of ratification indicates that in accordance with the special relationships that exist between New Zealand and the Cook Islands and between New Zealand and Niue, there have been consultations regarding the Convention between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of the Cook Islands and between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Niue; that the Government of the Cook Islands, which has exclusive competence to implement treaties in the Cook Islands, has requested that the Convention should extend to the Cook Islands; that the Government of Niue, which has exclusive competence to implement treaties in Niue, has requested that the Convention should extend to Niue. The said instrument specifies that accordingly the Convention shall apply also to the Cook Islands and Niue.

Portugal

On 23 July 1997, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Pakistan the following communication:

Portugal is of the view that a general declaration of the kind made by Pakistan, constituting in fact in legal terms a general reservation, and not clearly specifying the provisions of the Convention to which it applies and the extent of the derogation therefrom, contributes to undermining the basis of international law.

Furthermore, according to paragraph 2 of article 28 of the Convention general reservation of such a kind is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and shall not be permitted.

Portugal therefore objects to the aforesaid general reservation which will not preclude the entry into force of the Convention in its entirety between Pakistan and Portugal.

On 27 April 1999, the Government of Portugal informed the Secretary-General that the Convention would apply to Macau.

Subsequently, the Secretary-General received the following communications:

> "On 19 October 1999: In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Portugal on the questions of Macau (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Declaration), the Government of the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macau with effect from 20 December 1999. Macau will, from that date, become a Special Administrative Region in foreign and defence affairs, which are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China."

In this connection, the Government of the People's Republic of China informed the Secretary-General of the following:

"The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as the 'Convention'), to which the Government of the People's Republic of China deposited the instrument of ratification on 4 November 1980, will apply to the Macau Special Administrative Region with effect from 20 December 1999. The Government of the People's Republic of China also wishes to make the following declaration:

"The reservation made by the Government of the People's Republic of China to paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention will also apply to the Macau Special Administrative Region.

"The Government of the People's Republic of China will assume responsibilities for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Convention to the Macau Special Administrative Region."

Portugal, on 21 October 1999, informed the Secretary-General that:

"in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the Portuguese Republic and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the question of Macau signed on 13 April 1987, the Portuguese Republic will continue to have international responsibility for Macau until 19 December 1999, and from that date onwards the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macau with effect from 20 December 1999. From 20 December 1999 onwards the Portuguese Republic will cease to be responsible for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Convention to Macau."

Sweden

On 13 August 1997, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Sweden the following communication with regard to the reservations made by Singapore:

The Government of Sweden is of the view that the general reservations [made by Singapore] raise doubts as to the communication of Singapore to the object and purpose of the Convention and would recall that, according to article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention, a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention shall not be permitted.

It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties are respected, as to their object and purpose, by all parties and that States are prepared to undertake any legislative changes necessary to comply with their obligations under the treaties.

The Government of Sweden is further of the view that general reservations of the kind made by the Government of Singapore, which do not clearly specify the provisions of the Convention to which they apply and the extent of the derogation therefrom, contribute to undermining the basis of international treaty law.

The Government of Sweden therefore objects to the aforesaid general reservations made by the Government of Singapore to the [said Convention].

This objection does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between Singapore and Sweden. The Convention will thus become operative between the two States without Singapore benefiting from these reservations.

It is the opinion of the Government of Sweden that no time applies to objections against reservations, which are inadmissible under international laws.

On that same date, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Sweden, a communication with regard to the declaration made by Pakistan:

[Same objection, mutatis mutandis, as the one made for Singapore.]

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands

The instrument of ratification specifies that the said Convention is ratified in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In this connection, on 4 April 1989, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Argentina an objection, identical in essence, mutatis mutandis, as the one made in this regard, on 3 October 1983, however, also referring to General Assembly resolutions 40/41, 42/19 and 43/25.

Subsequently, on 27 November 1989, the Secretary-General received from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland a communication, identical in essence, mutatis mutandis, as the one made in this regard.

Further, on 14 October 1966, the Secretary-General received from the Government of the United Kingdom a communication stating that it had decided to apply the Convention to Hong Kong, subject to the following reservations and declarations.

"General

"(a) The United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong understands the main purpose of the Convention, in the light of the definition contained in article 1, to the reduction, in accordance with its terms, of discrimination against women, and does not therefore regard the Convention as imposing any requirement to repeal or modify any existing laws, customs or practices which provide for women to be treated more favourably than men, whether temporarily or in the longer term. Undertakings by the United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong under article 4, paragraph 1, and other provisions of the convention are to be construed accordingly.

"(b) The right to continue to apply such immigration legislation governing entry into, stay in and departure from Hong Kong as may be deemed necessary from time to time is reserved by the United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong. Accordingly, acceptance of article 15 (4), and of other provisions of the Convention, is subject to the provisions of any such legislation as regards persons not at the time having the right under the law of Hong Kong to enter and remain in Hong Kong.

"(c) In the light of the definition contained in article 1, the United Kingdom's extension of its ratification to Hong Kong is subject to the understanding that one of its obligations under the Convention in Hong Kong shall be treated as extending to the affairs of religious denominations or orders.

"(d) Laws applicable in the New Territories which enable male indigenous villages to exercise certain rights in respect of land or property held by indigenous persons or their lawful successors through the male line will continue to be applied.

"Specific articles

"Article 9

"The British Nationality Act 1981, which was brought into force with effect from January 1983, is based on principles which do not allow of any discrimination against women within the meaning of article 1 as regards acquisition, change, or retention of their nationality or as regards the nationality of their children, the United Kingdom's acceptance of article 9 on behalf of Hong Kong shall not, however, be taken to invalidate the continuation of certain temporary or transitional provisions, which will continue in force beyond that date.

"Article 11

"The United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong reserves the right to apply all Hong Kong legislation and the rules of pension schemes affecting retirement pensions, survivors' benefits and other benefits in relation to death or retirement (including retirement on grounds of redundancy) whether or not delivered from a social security scheme.

"This reservation will apply equally to any further legislation, which may modify or replace such legislation, or the rules of pension schemes, on the understanding that the terms of such legislation will be compatible with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention in respect of Hong Kong.

"The United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong reserves the right to apply any non-discriminatory requirement for a qualifying period of employment for the application of the provisions contained in article 11 (2).

"Article 15

"In relation to article 15, paragraph 3, the United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong understands the intention of this provision to be that only those terms or elements of a contract or other private instrument which are discriminatory in the sense described are to be deemed null and void, but not necessarily the contract or instrument as a whole."

Annex I

Status of declarations, reservations, objections and notifications of withdrawal of reservations by States parties related to articles of the Convention

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
Algeria	2 9, para. 2 15, para. 4 16 29	Germany Netherlands Norway/Sweden Portugal/ Denmark	
Argentina	29, para. 1		
Australia	11, para. 2 (b)		
Austria	7, para. (b) 11, para. 1 (f)		7, para. (b)
Bahamas	2, para. (a) 9, para. 2 16, para. 1 (h) 29, para. 1		
Bahrain	2 9, para. 2 15, para. 4 16 29, para.1		
Bangladesh	2	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	
	13, para. (a)	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	13, para. (a)
	[16, para. 1] (c) [and (f)]	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	16, para. 1 (f)
Belarus	[29, para. 1]		29, para. 1
Belgium	7 15, paras. 2 and 3		

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
Brazil	[15, para. 4]	Germany Netherlands Sweden	15, para. 4
	[16, para. 1 (a), (c), (g) and (h)]	Germany Netherlands Sweden	16, para. 1 (a), (c), (g) and (h)
	29, para. 1		
Bulgaria	[29, para. 1]		29, para. 1
Canada	[11, para. 1 (d)]		11, para. 1 (d)
Chile	General declaration		
China	29, para. 1		
Cuba	29, para. 1		
Cyprus	9, para. 2	Mexico	9, para. 2
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2, para. (f)	Austria Denmark Finland France Germany Netherlands Norway Portugal Spain Sweden United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
	9, para. 2	Austria Denmark Finland France Germany Netherlands Norway Portugal Spain Sweden United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
	29, para. 1		

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
Egypt	2	Germany Netherlands Sweden	
	9, para. 2	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	
	16	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	
	29, para. 1	Mexico	
El Salvador	29, para. 1		
Ethiopia	29, para. 1		
Fiji	5, para. (a), 9	Netherlands	5, para. (a) and 9
France	5, (b) [7] 14, para. 2 (c) and (h) [15, paras. 2 and 3] [16, para. 1 (c), (d) and (h)] 16, para. 1 (g) 29, para. 1		7 15, paras. 2 and 3 16, para. 1 (c), (d) and (h)
Germany	General declaration: 7, para. (b)		7, para. (b)
Hungary	[29, para. 1]		29, para. 1
India	5, para. (a)	Netherlands	
	16, para. 1	Netherlands	
	16, para. 2	Netherlands	
	29, para. 1		
Indonesia	29, para. 1		
Iraq	2, paras. (f) and (g)	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	
	9, para. 1	Sweden	

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
	9, paras. 1 and 2	Germany Israel Mexico Netherlands Sweden	
	16	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	
	29, para. 1	Sweden	
Ireland	[9, para. 1] [11, para. 1] [13, para. (a)] 13, paras. (b) and (c) 15, para. 3 [15, para. 4] 16, paras. 1 (d) and (f)		9, para. 1 15, para. 3 15, para. 4
Israel	7, para. (b) 16 29, para. 1		
Italy	General reservation		
Jamaica	[9, para. 2]	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	9, para. 2
	29, para. 1		
Jordan	9, para. 2	Sweden	
	15, para. 4	Sweden	
	16, para. 1 (c), (d) and (g)	Sweden	
Kuwait	7, para. (a)	Finland Netherlands Norway Sweden	
	9, para. 2	Finland Netherlands Norway Sweden	

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
	16, para. 1 (f)	Finland Netherlands Norway Sweden	
	29, para. 1	Norway	
Lebanon	9, para. 2 16 (1) (c), (d), (f) and (g) 29, para. 1	Austria Denmark Netherlands Sweden	
Lesotho	2, para. (e)	Denmark Finland Germany Mexico Netherlands Norway	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	General	Denmark Finland Germany Mexico Netherlands Norway Sweden	
	2		
	16, para. 1 (c) and (d)		
Liechtenstein	1 [9, para. 2]		9, para. 2
Luxembourg	7 16, para. 1 (g)		
Malawi	[5]	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	5
	[29, para. 2]		29, para. 2
Malaysia	2, para. (f) 5, para. (a) 7, para. (b) 9 16	Denmark Finland France Germany Netherlands Norway	2, para. (f) 9, para. 1 16 (b), (d), (e) and (h)

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
Maldives	2	Austria Canada Finland Germany Netherlands Norway Portugal Sweden	
Malta	11, para. 1 13 15 16, para. 1 (e)		
Mauritania	General reservation	Austria Denmark Finland Germany Netherlands Norway Portugal Sweden United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
Mauritius	11, para. 1 (b) and (d)	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	11, para. 1 (b) and (d) 16, para. 1 (g)
	16, para. 1 (g)	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	
	29, para. 1		
Mexico	General declaration		
Mongolia	[29, para. 1]		29, para. 1
Morocco	2	Netherlands	
	9, para. 2	Netherlands	
	15, para. 4	Netherlands	
	16	Netherlands	
	29		
Myanmar	29		
Netherlands	General declaration		

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
New Zealand (Cook Islands)	2, para. (f)	Mexico Sweden	
(Cook Islands)	5, para. (a)	Mexico Sweden	
(Cook Islands and Niue)	11, para. 2 (b)		
Niger	2, paras. (d) and (f) 5, para. (a) 15, para. (4) 16, para. 1 (c), (e) and (g)	Denmark Finland Norway	
	29, para. 1		
	5, para. (b)		
Pakistan	29, para. 1	Austria Denmark Finland Germany Netherlands Norway Portugal	
Poland	[29, para. 1]		29, para. 1
Republic of Korea	9	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	9 16, para. 1 (c), (d) and (f)
	16, para. 1 [(c), (d) and (f)] (g)	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	16, para. 1 (c), (d) and (f)
Romania	[29, para. 1]		29, para. 1
Russian Federation	[29, para. 1]		29, para. 1

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
Saudi Arabia	9, para. 2	Austria Denmark Finland France Germany Ireland Netherlands Norway Portugal Spain Sweden United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
	29, para.1		
Singapore	2	Finland Netherlands Norway	
	16	Finland Netherlands Norway	
	11, para. 1	Finland Netherlands Norway	
	29, para. 1	Finland Netherlands Norway	
Spain	7 (declaration)		
Switzerland	7 (b) 15, para. 2 16, para. 1 (g) 16, para. 1 (h)		
Thailand	7	Germany	
	[9, para. 2]	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	9, para. 2
	10	Germany Mexico	
	[11, para. 1 (b)]	Germany	11, para. 1 (b)

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
	[15, para. 3]	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	15, para. 3
	16	Germany Mexico Netherlands Sweden	
	29, para. 1		
Trinidad and Tobago	29, para. 1		
Tunisia	9, para. 2	Germany Netherlands Sweden	
	15, para. 4	Germany Netherlands Sweden	
	16, para. 1 (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h) 29, para. 1	Germany Netherlands Sweden	
Turkey	9, para. 1 (declaration)		15, paras. 2 and 4 16, paras. 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g)
	15, paras. 2 and 4	Germany Netherlands	
	16, para. 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g)	Germany Mexico Netherlands	
	29, para. 1		
Ukraine	[29, para. 1]		29, para. 1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	(declarations) 1 [2, paras. (f) and (g)] 9 10, para. (c) 11, paras. 1 and 2 [13] 15, paras. 2 and 3 16, para. 1	Argentina	2, paras. (f) and (g) 11, para. 1 (part) 13

State party	*Articles for which declarations or reservations have been made*	*States parties that have raised objections*	*Articles for which reservations have been withdrawn*
(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on behalf of:	(declarations)		
British Virgin Islands,			
Falkland Islands (Malvinas),			
Isle of Man,	1, 2, 9, 11,		
South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and	13, 15, 16		
Turks and Caicos Islands			
Venezuela	29, para. 1		
Viet Nam	29, para. 1		
Yemen	29, para. 1		

Annex II

Articles of the Convention for which States parties have not yet withdrawn their reservations

Article	*State party*
1	Liechtenstein, United Kingdom and on behalf of: British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands
2	Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Morocco, Singapore
2, para. (a)	Bahamas
2, para. (e)	Lesotho
2, para. (f)	Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand (Cook Islands)
2, para. (d) and (f)	Niger
2, para. (f) and (g)	Iraq, United Kingdom
5, para. (a)	Fiji, India, Malaysia, New Zealand (Cook Islands) and Niger
5, para. (b)	France
7	Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, Thailand
7, para. (a)	Kuwait
7, para. (b)	Israel, Malaysia, Switzerland
9	Fiji, France, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom and on behalf of: British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands
9, para. 1	Turkey
9, paras. 1 and 2	Iraq
9, para. 2	Algeria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia
10	Thailand
10, para. (c)	United Kingdom
11	United Kingdom and on behalf of: British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands
11, para. 1	Ireland, Malta, Singapore

Article	*State party*
11, para. 1 (b) and (d)	Mauritius
11, para. 1 (f)	Austria
11, para. 2 (b)	Australia, New Zealand (Cook Islands and Niue)
13	Malta, United Kingdom on behalf of: British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands
13, para. (b) and (c)	Ireland
14, para. 2 (c)	France
14, para. 2 (h)	France
15	Malta
15, paras. 2 and 3	Belgium, United Kingdom and on behalf of: British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands
15, paras. 2 and 4	Turkey
15, para. 3	
15, para. 4	Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia
16	Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Singapore, Thailand
16, para. 1	India
16, para. 1 (f)	United Kingdom and on behalf of: British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands
16, para. 1 (c) and (d)	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
16, para. 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g)	Turkey
16, para. 1 (c), (e), (f)	Niger
16, para. 1 (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h)	Tunisia
16, para. 1 (d) and (g)	France
16, para. 1 (c), (d), (g)	Jordan
16, para. 1 (c) and (f)	Bangladesh
16, para. 1 (d) and (f)	Ireland

Article	*State party*
16, para. 1 (f)	Kuwait
16, para. 1 (e)	Malta
16, para. 1 (g)	France, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Republic of Korea, Switzerland
16, para. 1 (h)	Bahamas
16, para. 2	India
29, para. 1	Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mauritius, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen

Annex III

States parties that have deposited with the Secretary-General instruments of acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention

State party	*Acceptance date*
Australia	4 June 1998
Austria	11 September 2000
Brazil	5 March 1997
Canada	3 November 1997
Chile	8 May 1998
Denmark	12 March 1996
Egypt	2 August 2001
Finland	18 March 1996
France	8 August 1997
Germany	25 February 2002
Guatemala	3 June 1999
Iceland	8 May 2002
Italy	31 May 1996
Jordan	11 January 2002
Lesotho	12 November 2001
Liechtenstein	15 April 1997
Madagascar	19 July 1996
Maldives	7 February 2002
Mali	20 June 2002
Malta	5 March 1997
Mexico	16 September 1996
Mongolia	19 December 1997
Netherlands[a]	10 December 1997
New Zealand	26 September 1996

State party	*Acceptance date*
Niger	1 May 2002
Norway	29 March 1996
Panama	5 November 1996
Portugal	8 January 2002
Republic of Korea	12 August 1996
Sweden	17 July 1996
Switzerland	2 December 1997
Turkey	9 December 1999
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[b]	19 November 1996

[a] For the Kingdom in Europe, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.
[b] For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the British Virgin Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Annex IV

State parties that have signed and ratified the Optional Protocol

State party	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification*
Andorra	9 July 2001	
Argentina	28 February 2000	
Austria	10 December 1999	6 September 2000
Azerbaijan	6 June 2000	1 June 2001
Bangladesh[a]	6 September 2000	6 September 2000
Belarus	29 April 2002	
Belgium[b]	10 December 1999	
Benin	25 May 2000	
Bolivia	10 December 1999	27 September 2000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7 September 2000	
Brazil	13 March 2001	28 June 2002
Bulgaria	6 June 2000	
Burkina Faso	16 November 2001	
Burundi	13 November 2001	
Cambodia	11 November 2001	
Chile	10 December 1999	
Colombia	10 December 1999	
Costa Rica	10 December 1999	20 September 2001
Croatia	5 June 2000	7 March 2001
Cuba[c]	17 March 2000	
Cyprus	8 February 2001	26 April 2002
Czech Republic	10 December 1999	26 February 2001
Denmark	10 December 1999	31 May 2000
Dominican Republic	14 March 2000	10 August 2001
Ecuador	10 December 1999	5 February 2002

State party	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification*
El Salvador	4 April 2001	
Finland	10 December 1999	29 December 2000
France	10 December 1999	9 June 2000
Germany	10 December 1999	15 January 2002
Ghana	24 February 2000	
Greece	10 December 1999	24 January 2002
Guatemala	7 September 2000	9 May 2002
Guinea-Bissau	12 September 2000	
Hungary		22 December 2000
Iceland	10 December 1999	6 March 2001
Indonesia	28 February 2000	
Ireland	7 September 2000	7 September 2000
Italy	10 December 1999	22 September 2000
Kazakhstan	6 September 2000	24 August 2001
Lesotho	6 September 2000	
Liechtenstein	10 December 1999	24 October 2001
Lithuania	8 September 2000	
Luxembourg	10 December 1999	
Madagascar	7 September 2000	
Malawi	7 September 2000	
Mali		5 December 2000
Mauritius	11 November 2001	
Mexico	10 December 1999	15 March 2002
Mongolia	7 September 2000	28 March 2002
Namibia	19 May 2000	26 May 2000
Nepal	18 December 2001	
Netherlands[d]	10 December 1999	22 May 2002
New Zealand[e]	7 September 2000	7 September 2000

State party	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification*
Nigeria	8 September 2000	
Norway	10 December 1999	5 March 2002
Panama	9 June 2000	9 May 2001
Paraguay	28 December 1999	14 May 2001
Peru	22 December 2000	9 April 2001
Philippines	21 March 2000	
Portugal	16 February 2000	26 April 2002
Romania	6 September 2000	
Russian Federation	8 May 2001	
Sao Tome and Principe	6 September 2000	
Senegal	10 December 1999	26 May 2000
Sierra Leone	8 September 2000	
Slovakia	5 June 2000	17 November 2000
Slovenia	10 December 1999	
Solomon Islands		6 May 2002
Spain	14 March 2000	6 July 2001
Sweden	10 December 1999	
Tajikistan	7 September 2000	
Thailand	14 June 2000	14 June 2000
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3 April 2000	
Turkey	8 September 2000	
Ukraine	7 September 2000	
Uruguay	9 May 2000	26 July 2001
Venezuela	17 March 2000	13 May 2002

[a] Bangladesh, upon signature and ratification, made the following declaration: "The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh declares, in accordance with article 10 (1) thereof, that it would not undertake the obligations arising out of articles 8 and 9 of the said Optional Protocol."

[b] Belgium, upon signature, made the following declaration: "The Flemish, French and German-speaking communities of Belgium are equally bound by this signature."

[c] Cuba, upon signature, made the following declaration: "The Government of the Republic of Cuba declares that it does not recognize the competence of the committee established by virtue of articles 8 and 9 of the Protocol."

[d] For the Kingdom in Europe, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

[e] New Zealand, upon signature and ratification, made a declaration to the effect that "consistent with the constitutional status of Tokelau and taking into account its commitment to the development of self-government through an act of self-determination under the Charter of the United Nations, this ratification shall not extend to Tokelau unless and until a declaration to this effect is lodged by the Government of New Zealand with the depositary on the basis of appropriate consultation with that territory".